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### British court rejects AMF suit

LONDON (R) — An appeal court ruled Tuesday that the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), which is seeking damages against a former director general now living in Britain, could not sue him in this country. The fund has named its former head, Jawad Mahmoud Hashim, through the courts of Switzerland, Canada and now Britain in an unsuccessful bid to claim about \$89 million in damages for alleged misappropriation of its money. It says that Hashim, an Iraqi-born economist who was director general between 1977 and 1982, used the fund's money to trade in foreign exchange and other markets for his own profit. The fund, based in Abu Dhabi, promotes economic development and stable exchange rates between its 21 member states. In 1987 Hashim was sentenced in absentia by an Abu Dhabi court to 240 years in prison and fined \$1.91 million for various counts of forgery and breach of trust. He was also ordered to pay \$89.5 million to the Arab Monetary Fund. Britain's high court had earlier ruled that the fund could try to recover the damages in this country but the decision was reversed Tuesday after Hashim appealed against the judgment.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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### Walesa wants to oust Jaruzelski

WARSAW (R) — Lech Walesa said Tuesday he would run for the office of Polish president and a top aide said he was ready to force President Wojciech Jaruzelski to resign. Asked by the official news agency PAP to comment on a weekend statement by one of his senior aides that he wanted to replace Jaruzelski soon, Walesa said: "I confirm." He did not elaborate, but said: "We have a lot of wise and valuable people in the government and other positions but one has to speed up the pace of reforms and remove the old set-up." Earlier, Walesa's chief of staff Krzysztof Puzs said the Solidarity leader was ready to force Jaruzelski to resign and take over the presidency himself. Puzs, chief of Walesa's secretariat, told Reuters Walesa should become president soon because Jaruzelski was doing nothing to speed up reforms at home or win help for Poland from abroad. "Everything is going too slowly. We just need someone with a whip," he said. Puzs said Walesa should first win reelection as chairman of Solidarity when the union holds its first national congress since 1981 in Gdansk next week.

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### Delegation leaves for Libya

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs left Amman Tuesday for Tripoli to make preparations for the reopening of Jordan's embassy in Tripoli closed six years ago. The team is led by Mr. Hisham Muheissen, who will hold talks on the reopening of the embassy with Libyan officials, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. Muheissen and his team would inspect the premises of the embassy, which was burnt down in an anti-Jordanian demonstration in 1984. Libya has restored the buildings and agreed with Jordan to restore full diplomatic ties following a meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi at an Arab summit in Morocco last year. According to Foreign Ministry sources, a Libyan team was expected in Amman soon to take charge of preparations for re-opening the Libyan embassy here.

### Arafat calls for Arab summit

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat called Tuesday for a special Arab summit conference to discuss Middle East issues before the superpower summit at the end of May. "I hope the proposal for a special Arab summit will be approved quickly and that it will be held before the American-Soviet summit at the end of next month," Arafat said after meeting Tunisian President Zine Abidine Ben Ali. He said the Arab summit would have to take measures to meet challenges facing the Arab World, including the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and perceived Israeli threats against Iraq.

### SLA raids two Lebanese villages

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli-backed militia advanced into two villages in South Lebanon Monday and arrested three people, security sources said. They said the armed force of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) pushed into the villages of Majdal Zoun and Haddatha on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone." The SLA detained three villagers from Majdal Zoun and opened up a barrage of artillery fire on the village of Haddatha, seriously wounding one resident, they said. Both villages are controlled by the militia.

### Singh warns Pakistan over Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister V.P. Singh Tuesday warned Pakistan it would pay a "heavy price" if it tried to intervene in a secessionist movement in India's Jammu-Kashmir state. It was his most aggressive statement to date in an escalating war of words with Pakistan. Singh told the Lok Sabha, or house of the people, that Pakistan was fomenting insurgency in the Jammu-Kashmir. Both countries claim rights to the Kashmir Valley, which is divided between them by a U.N. ceasefire line. He said Pakistan could "make a limited intervention with or without uniforms to achieve its territorial goal." You (Pakistan) will not get away with it. You will have to pay a very heavy price and we have the capability to inflict this cost.

### Qadhafi urges release of Arab political prisoners in West

NICOSIA (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi appealed Tuesday for the release of Arab political prisoners in Western countries and thanked headline Palestinians for freeing three European hostages in Beirut. "There are prisoners and detained people from the Middle East and Arab countries jailed in some prisons in European countries and in the U.S. for political reasons. I hope that they may be released, too," the Libyan news agency JANA said Qadhafi expressed appreciation to the Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC), led by Abu Nidal, for responding to his appeal to release the hostages (see page 2).

## King addresses Royal Commission

Democratisation is irreversible • National charter will not be a substitute for constitution, will regulate pluralism • Events of last April inspired need to renew social contract • Democracy can only be protected by democracy • We all are in the same boat and no one will rock it

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The democratisation of Jordan is an irreversible process and democratic tolerance of opposing views should be the guiding force for political life in the Kingdom under guidelines set by the proposed national charter. His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday.

Addressing a 60-member Royal Commission, which was named Monday and entrusted with drafting the national charter, the King said that the proposed document would be a "social contract pivoted on democracy and founded in the Constitution."

The national charter, the King affirmed, will be a "broad and flexible framework for national action" and "will not be a substitute for the Constitution."

The King's reaffirmation came against a backdrop of contentions by some political groupings and parliamentarians that the national charter would seek to circumvent constitutional provisions.

"Constitutional parliamentary life is our common choice, and the path from which there will be no turning back," the King said in the speech, which was broadcast in full on Jordan television and radio.

The King cautioned that good will and agreement on basic concepts should be integral elements of democratic life without which "fangs and talons (will) tear at national unity and destroy the achievements and gains of the state."

The King said the idea of a national charter was conceived with Jordan's July 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank and further given shape with the April 1989 unrest against price hikes in the south of the Kingdom and crystallised with the Nov. 8 general elections.

"The new phase which we are about to begin will pave the way for the resumption of political pluralism, which is another cornerstone of democracy," the King told the commission, which is chaired by former Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat and includes parliamentarians, political activists, lawyers, university professors, writers, trade union leaders, journalists and intellectuals.

The proposed charter, which will be put for a national referendum, is expected to outline the framework for the legalisation of political parties in the Kingdom after a ban imposed in 1956.

Describing the proposed charter as a "social contract," the King said it would set guidelines not only for political life but also the economy, society and culture, and will lay down common objectives to serve as "deterrent against claiming to monopolise truth and seeking to impose that monopoly on others by force."

The King said Jordan's experience in democracy with political parties in the 1950s was "not positive," and that

the parties that existed then "were governed by the positions and dictates of their leaders from abroad."

He said the parties then "overlooked the most basic principle of democracy, namely that nobody has a monopoly of truth."

In addition, he said, some elements had infiltrated into the ranks of the Armed Forces and threatened to undermine the security and stability of the country.

The King called on Jordanians to learn from the mistakes of Western and Israeli democracies, which, he said, violated basic values and principles of democracy.

"The nations which have the oldest democratic traditions, and the country that occupies Palestine, suppressing and terrorising its people, also has a democratic system," he commented.

"This should remind us that democracy also has an ugly face which manifests itself when the people who practise democracy stray away from ethical values... or when they pursue their narrow interest over the general good of the society and the state."

The King reiterated Jordan's commitment to the Palestinian cause and support for the uprising in the occupied territories which entered its 28th month Monday. "Jordan will continue to exert all available resources to support the struggle of the Palestinian people under its national leadership, represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation," he said.

The Royal Commission, in which most shades and colours of the Jordanian political spectrum are represented, includes 11 members of the Upper House of Parliament, 16 members of the Lower House, and 10 Islamists, six of them members of the Muslim Brotherhood, in addition to seven university professors, four journalists, and four women.

Others include political activists, representing Communists, pan-Arab Baathists and independent Arab nationalists.

Following is the full text of the King's address:

Your Excellency,  
Brothers and sisters,

I greet you with pride and esteem, and welcome you to Basman, the home of all Jordanians.

I am gratified that we should have this meeting to initiate another phase in our political life, a phase of dialogue, and the belief that no single side can claim a monopoly in truth.

with a sense of responsibility we shall accomplish it as successfully as the one that preceded it. That phase started last November with the parliamentary general elections and the selection of senators, and was completed when the new government won the vote of confidence of the House of Deputies, on the basis of its programme, which was derived from the letter of appointment.

The new phase which we are about to begin will pave the way for the resumption of political pluralism, which is another cornerstone of democracy.

As you know, the democratic structure has many constituents. Some of these are institutional, represented by the National Assembly and political parties. Some are methodological, reflected by adherence to the constitution, freedom and responsibility of our parliamentary democracy. I am confident that with awareness and

House of Parliament, stressed that the Royal Commission would work to protect the achievements that the country has made throughout its long march.

Obaidat said that despite any differences in opinion among the commission's members, who have been drawn from all walks of political life, the panel will work as one team to achieve the unity of the country, protect democra-

cy and safeguard the proposed national charter.

The former prime minister voiced the commission's appreciation of the King's directives designating the committee and of his continued and dedicated efforts to protect the country's achievements. He pointed out that the proposed charter will reflect the will and determination of the people and government to

enter a process of national reform.

The charter will also reflect the people's ability to capitalise on the strength of the past and foresee the future. "It is indicative of the people's ability to safeguard their achievements," he said.

Obaidat also said that seriousness and commitment would be the main features of the commission's work.

(Continued on page 4)

### Obeidat pledges seriousness, commitment

AMMAN — Former prime minister and head of the newly-formed Royal Commission on the proposed national charter Ahmad Obeidat Tuesday pledged the panel's commitment to safeguarding public interests, taking into account the challenges facing the people and the country.

In reply to a speech by His Majesty King Hussein at a meeting held at the Royal Palace, Obeidat, a member of the Upper

House of Parliament, stressed that the Royal Commission would work to protect the achievements that the country has made throughout its long march.

Obaidat said that despite any differences in opinion among the commission's members, who have been drawn from all walks of political life, the panel will work as one team to achieve the unity of the country, protect democra-

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(Continued on page 4)

## Parliamentarians to meet U.S. senators, protest to go ahead

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A U.S. Senate delegation led by Republican leader Robert Dole arrives here this evening from Egypt against a background of scepticism from public officials and a planned protest organised by the local chapter of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

Union leaders, local newspaper columnist and members of the Lower House called for a boycott of the delegation's visit in protest against the U.S. Senate's recognition last month of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. However, informed official sources confirmed Tuesday that Jordan Parliament members would meet with the visitors.

"There was talk of some sort of demonstration by members of the Lower House to protest the Senate resolution (on Jerusalem) but I guess nothing has

become of that," said one deputy who said he was planning to join the protest.

Several members of the Upper House foreign affairs committees confirmed that they planned to meet with the delegation "if there is time."

"It would be a good opportunity to say a few things and set the record straight about the status of Jerusalem, the occupied territories and other Arab issues," Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi told the Jordan Times. "Maybe the senators could use a briefing."

Taber Al Masri, head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lower House, dismissed calls by other deputies to boycott the senators on their visit to Jordan. "The delegation is on an official visit and we have to meet them as their counterparts regardless of their position on Middle East issues," Masri said.

"If we meet with the senators we will certainly tell them what we think about the Senate's recent resolution on the status of Jerusalem and other issues. So maybe their visit will even do some good," Masri, a former foreign minister, told the Jordan Times.

However, the local chapter of the ADC confirmed that a group of "about 50 to 60 people will stage a silent welcome/protest action" Wednesday evening at the Marriott Hotel, where the senators are expected to stay during their visit.

The protesters, who will include representatives of several popular organisations based in Amman and the occupied territories, will present a memorandum to the senators, "outlining the inadmissibility of any unilateral action on Jerusalem by anyone," said an official at the ADC.

The Senate delegation is on what is described as a "fact finding" mission to the Middle East. Officials and columnists

(Continued on page 5)

## Mubarak favours confederation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak believes a confederation with Jordan would be a better solution for the Palestinian problem than an independent state, according to an interview published here this week.

Mubarak, speaking with editors of the weekly U.S. News and World Report, said that under a permanent solution Israeli troops could withdraw from the occupied West Bank but remain stationed on strategic mountain ridges and along the Jordan River. "These arrangements can be reached during negotiations. ... I think it might be accepted," he was quoted as saying.

Mubarak also said that once Israeli-Palestinian negotiations get under way, Syria would join them.

"We have a golden opportunity for peace now. But (some Israelis) are being blockheaded" in insisting that Jordan is the solution to the Palestinian problem, Mubarak said.

"At their last Algiers conference, the Palestinians agreed on a state in confederation with Jordan," he said. "I think it's a good signal. Confederation would be much more stable. We just shouldn't talk about it a lot," the Egyptian leader said.

Although Yasser Arafat does not control all the diverse factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mubarak said, "Arafat is the best man in the whole lot" and the one Israel must negotiate with.

Mubarak said Libya may be producing small amounts of chemical weapons. "Don't believe that Libya is producing big chemical weapons. If they are, then it's with foreign aid and may be true only in a small way," he was quoted as saying.

Iraq is ready for inspection of its facilities if other countries in the region have theirs inspected too, he said. "But you can't give Israel a green light" to produce weapons "and not allow the Arabs (to produce these weapons)," Mubarak said.

As for Iran, "I don't trust the Iranian stand" even though the country's new leaders have sought to renew diplomatic ties with Egypt, he said.

Egypt has some Muslim fundamentalists but the authorities have the situation under control, he said.

## 5 shot and wounded in West Bank and Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded five Palestinians in the occupied territories and arrested five Israeli vehicles Tuesday, first day of a week-long holiday.

Two Palestinians were shot in or near the West Bank city of Nablus, two were hit in Gaza City and one was wounded in a nearby refugee camp to the south, hospital and Palestinian sources quoted by Reuters said.

Police said three cars were set on fire in Arab Jerusalem's Jewish neighbourhood of Pisgat Zeev, a lorry was torched in the Arab sector of Shuafat and a bus burned near the Arab village of Beit Safafa just south of the city. They said substantial damage was caused to all the vehicles but no one was injured.

Mohammad Salis, 17, was shot and seriously wounded during clashes in the West Bank city of Nablus. Yasser Rajah Hadash, 20,

was shot in Nur Shams refugee camp nearby as soldiers moved against stone-throwers.

Palestinians said troops fired vinyl-coated ball bearings, tear-gas and stun grenades to disperse demonstrators who threw stones and burned tyres in Gaza City's commercial district.

A 16-year-old boy was hit in the head by a ball bearing and a 17-year-old was also wounded, and in Dir Al Balah refugee camp 16 kilometres south of the city a 24-year-old man was shot.

The army said it had no reports of the clashes. A spokeswoman said Tulkarm village in the West Bank was placed under curfew to allow "army operations."

Palestinians said the curfew was imposed after 40 masked people tore down during the night a makeshift building used by Israeli troops as a daytime lookout post.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops ordered shops closed in Gaza's commercial district and declared it a closed military zone after the clashes.

Troops chased a number of demonstrators into nearby Al Ahal Hospital and arrested two people in the hospital, Palestinian sources said.

Palestinians marked the 29th month of their revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with a general strike Monday.

A rightist Israeli group announced plans to March Wednesday from Jerusalem's Haram Al Sharif complex to the U.S. consulate to protest against Washington's opposition to settling Soviet Jews in Arab Jerusalem.

A Palestinian leader said Tuesday Europe should push Israeli Labour leader Shimon Peres to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and get guarantees of peace.

## Peres, Rabin elect cabinet candidates

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Labour Party leaders Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin met Tuesday to select their party's candidates for cabinet posts in a coalition government they will present to parliament for approval.

Peres has expressed confidence that his coalition will win a majority in Wednesday's vote in the 120-member parliament. So far, 61 legislators are committed to back the Labour-led coalition.

They are: 39 from Labour, five from the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel party, five from the left-wing Citizens Rights Movement (CRM), three from the socialist Mapam party, two from the left-wing Shinui party, three from the Communist Hadash party, and three tiny parties with one legislator each.

The 61st is Avraham Sharir, a former tourism minister who defected from the right-wing Likud bloc last week.

Labour has signed a coalition agreement with Agudat Israel and Shinui, but so far has failed to bring the CRM, Mapam and Shinui into the government.

"We are going to support the government tomorrow, but we are not going to join it because of

## Mitsotakis gets mandate to form government

ATHENS (AP) — Conservative party leader Constantine Mitsotakis, finally an election winner after four tries, received a mandate to form a government Tuesday.

Mitsotakis who worked out an agreement with a small party to give him the necessary majority in the 300-member parliament, said his government would be sworn in Wednesday.

Following his one-hour meeting with President Christos Sartzetakis, the 71-year-old Mitsotakis told reporters: "I don't have much to say. As you know I met with Mr. Sartzetakis who gave me a mandate to form a government."

The mandate was given after Mitsotakis assured Sartzetakis that he controlled 151 of the 300 parliamentary seats.

Mitsotakis received the support of Democratic Renewal Party leader Costis Stephanopoulos after returns from Sunday's general elections showed he was one seat short of a majority.

His support avoided a political impasse

## Peres, Rabin elect cabinet candidates

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(Continued on page 3)



# Palestinian group frees 3 hostages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A French woman, her Belgian boyfriend and their infant daughter were released Tuesday by the Palestinian guerrilla group that held them hostage for almost two and a half years, police said.

Police said the three released by Abu Nidal's group Fatah-Revolutionary Council (FRC) were French woman Jacqueline Valente, 32, her Belgian boyfriend Fernand Houtekins, 43, and their 2-year-old daughter Sophie-Liberte, born in captivity. Palestinian sources in the port of Sidon said the three arrived secretly from Libya by boat over the weekend. They were kept at an Abu Nidal base east of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, until their release, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

French embassy spokesman Francois Abi Saab said only two news organisations financed by the French government, Agence-France Presse news agency and the Antenne-2 television station, would have access to the hostages.

A special plane was dispatched from Paris Tuesday to collect the freed hostages.

"Kisses to all my relatives. I am fine and so is the child," Valente told the French reporters given exclusive access to the couple. "We feel a little tired from travelling."

Houtekins said his four in-laws still held were "in very good condition. Their morale is high and they are taking it in their stride. Don't worry."

He added, "We were awaiting the day of our release and it has finally come. We hope the others left behind will be freed soon."

The couple would not comment on their second child born in captivity during their 20-minute talk with reporters.

But French Ambassador Rene Ala said Ms. Valente told him that the boy born in March 1989 had died from problems in his digestive system.

Abu Saab, reached by telephone said the three were in good health.

Four Belgians of the original group of eight people kidnapped in November 1987 remain in the hands of FRC.

The group has said their release was contingent on freedom for a Palestinian jailed in Belgium for a decade after a bombing attack on Jewish youths.

Hours after the release, FRC spokesman Walid Khaled drove into the French embassy offices and told reporters he will release a statement "after my talks with French diplomats." He would not elaborate.

Gunmen from FRC brought the three to the embassy at 8:15 a.m. (06:15 GMT), the police spokesman said.

Masked gunmen in a convoy of three cars, curtains drawn, sped up to embassy on Rue Clemenceau in west Beirut, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Ala and the French diplomats apparently had advance notice of the release. Ala was waiting at a cement outpost manned by French Marine guards near the main gate," the spokesman said.

The gunmen did not disembark. The doors were opened and Ferdinand Houtekins emerged first, wearing a grey suit and carrying the baby daughter, the spokesman said.

"Ms. Valente was next. They walked into the embassy guards, armed with automatic rifles, watched," he added.

Ms. Valente was wearing a black leather jacket and beige skirt, while the baby was all in white.

A French guard, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the three were served "breakfast of instant coffee, jam and croissants."

"They'll probably leave for Paris later in the day," the guard said, talking from behind the main gate.

In France, Jacqueline's mother Brigitte Valente said, "the nightmare is over and I'm trembling with joy. I can't even talk. It's too beautiful."

The mother and daughter had a brief conversation broadcast on French radio.

France's Foreign Minister credited Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi, who called for their release last week to mark the holy month of Ramadan.

In a ministry statement, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas expressed his satisfaction for this "noble and humanitarian gesture."

It expressed hope that the four others detained by Abu Nidal's group would be freed without delay.

In Brussels, Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said in a statement he hoped Tuesday's "release can be considered as a testimony of good faith concerning the release of the other" hostages.

He said "the Belgian government thanks everybody who has contributed to the happy outcome."

The other Belgians are Houtekins' brother, Emmanuel, in his 40s, his wife Godelieve Kets, age unavailable, and son Laurent and daughter Valerie, both teenagers.

"When I see (the release) on television, all my sorrow surfaces again because I know that the others are left behind," said Lisette Kets, the sister of Godelieve, in an interview on BRT national radio.

"I have a lot of grief because they were not set free together," she said.

But she was bolstered by the knowledge a Belgian negotiator was in Beirut working on their behalf.

A Belgian Foreign Office official, Jan Hollants van Looke, said at a press conference in Beirut Monday that he was in Lebanon to negotiate for the release of the Belgians.

The FRC spokesman said Monday that freedom for the remaining four Belgians was contingent on freedom for Nasser Sa'ed, given a life sentence for a grenade attack June 27, 1980, against Jewish youths in Antwerp.

Abu Nidal announced on Nov. 8, 1987 that it had seized a group of eight hostages from the French yacht Silco off the Gaza Strip and accused them of collaborating with Israel's Mossad intelligence agency.

Friends said the group was on

a holiday cruise.

Two other daughters of Ms. Valente were freed after Libyan intervention on Dec. 29, 1988. Daughter Marie-Laure was 6 at the time and Virginie was 5. They were returned to their father Pascal Bettle, divorced from Ms. Valente.

Because the boat hostages are believed in Libya they are not listed among the 18 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

The fate of the other 18 is considered an entirely separate matter, as most are believed in the hands of pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim factions.

Khaled, in his second appeal in two days, urged the kidnappers of two Swiss relief workers of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to free them for humanitarian reasons.

Emmanuel Christen, 33, and Elio Enriquez, 24, were seized on Oct. 6, 1989 by gunmen outside an ICRC office in South Lebanon.

Security sources said the two were believed seized by the FRC but the radical group has denied holding them.

Hope for British captives

In London, friends and relatives of Britons held in Lebanon

welcomed Tuesday's release of the three but doubted it would mean the early freeing of their loved ones.

Four Britons are believed held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon — journalist John McCarthy, retired pilot Jack Mann, and Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy. Missing teacher Brian Keenan has Irish and British citizenship.

"The release of hostages of any nationality by any group is always very welcome news," said a spokesman for Archbishop Robert Runcie.

"But the captors in this case are quite different to those holding the British hostages in Lebanon, so their release brings little direct comfort to the families of the British hostages beyond the hope that it might loosen up the situation of hostages in Lebanon generally."

The Britons are believed to be held by Islamic Jihad, an umbrella organisation for pro-Iranian Shiite Muslims in Lebanon.

John Waite, cousin of Terry Waite, said: "It's great, and we are delighted that these three have been freed. It's wonderful and we send them our love. It's also a great boost that somebody has been released."

## Senators have 'frank, constructive' talks with Assad

DAMASCUS (USIA) — A delegation of U.S. senators met with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad on April 9. Senate minority leader Robert Dole said that President Assad and the American delegation discussed a wide range of topics during what he described as "frank and constructive exchange" which lasted two hours and forty minutes.

Among the topics discussed, he told reporters following the meeting, were U.S.-Syrian relations, the peace process, Lebanon, hostages, terrorism and human rights.

The delegation, led by Senator Dole, includes Senators Alan Simpson (Republican of Wyoming), Howard Metzenbaum (Democrat of Ohio), James A. McClure (Republican of Idaho), and Frank Murkowski (Republican of Alaska).

Following is the transcript of the news conference:

Dole: Let me indicate — if I can just make a brief opening statement — when we'll be happy to respond to questions and we'll each be available for questions. We've had a very frank and constructive exchange with the president about two hours and forty minutes. We discussed broad-ranging issues that affect Syria, affect the United States, affect this part of the world. It primarily was the peace process, Lebanon, hostages, terrorism, and human rights, including Syrian Jewry.

We also indicated to President Assad that we brought him best wishes from President Bush. We told him the president placed significant store in this visit, in this delegation. We met with the president last Thursday before we left Washington, D.C., and the president indicated his gratitude for the help the Syrians have had with reference to the hostages and the peace process, the Taif accords in Lebanon, and we conveyed that to President Assad.

We also discussed the improvement of U.S.-Syrian relations, and we made it very clear that one of the primary purposes we were here — the five of us — was to express our hope that we can improve relations between the United States and Syria.

President Assad assured us of his efforts to continue to pursue any avenue to find a way to a comprehensive peace accord. He indicated that it must be comprehensive, it couldn't be bilateral, and we raised each of these questions. I think Senator Murkowski may have raised chemical war-

fare, biological weapons. So, we'd be happy at this point to respond to any questions.

Q: (Inaudible about hostages) Dole: We were told that he was engaged in trying to be helpful. He gave us no specific information. I raised the question about Colonel Higgins and whether there was any chance he could help us find the remains of Col. Higgins so they could be returned home to his family. He indicated he'd had several contacts on that particular case. But the point is he indicated his full cooperation and he was engaged. I assume that means making contacts, and we thank him for it. He had nothing to report, to announce.

Q: Are you hopeful?

Dole: I thought it was hopeful.

Q: (Inaudible about Syria's role in the peace process.)

Dole: Well let me answer that, then I'll be happy to yield to my colleagues. I think the point that of my colleagues made is that President Assad can play a very prominent role in this process. And we want him to understand that we fully understood that, that he could be a positive force for good. I think that Sen. Simpson indicated it would be approved widely around the world if he took a lead position in an effort to bring about peace in the Middle East. We pointed out that in Eastern Europe and in Latin America, nearly everywhere in the world, we're finding more and more evidence of more freedom, more democracy. But the Middle East seems to stay pretty much the same. So our mission was to underscore the importance of Syria, the government, but primarily President Assad, with reference to the Middle East. That includes Lebanon, it includes, obviously, other countries. Let me let somebody else respond to that.

Metzenbaum: I think we made it clear that we felt that no single individual could have more impact in bringing about peace in the Middle East than Mr. Assad, and I think it's clear that when the whole world is moving toward peace, that peace is particularly called for in the Middle East. The conditions with respect to the economy, the conditions with respect for a need for a joint effort for water, mitigates strongly for a peaceful settlement in this part of the world. Mr. Assad indicated he felt the need for a total resolution of the differences that exist. Some of us indicated that we felt he could be an effective

## No plans for Baker trip to Mideast

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler has emphasized that there is no plan for Secretary of State James Baker to visit the Middle East in the near future.

An article published on April 9 by syndicated columnist Rowland Evans and Robert Novak suggested Baker may fly to the region soon if a new Israeli government headed by Labour Party leader Shimon Peres takes office.

"There are no trips that I'm aware of that are planned," the spokeswoman told a questioner. Tutwiler had no comment about the possibility that Peres

would be named Israel's new prime minister. "As you know, we are waiting to work with the Israeli government that emerges," she said.

In a Washington Post report Evans and Novak said that the unpublicised expectation in Baker's office is that one of the first policy edicts to be issued by the new Labour prime minister will rule out more Jewish settlements on the West Bank.

Baker next wants a pledge to bar Soviet Jews from living in existing West Bank settlements unless they are joining family members already there.

If the new Labour government

meets those two conditions, Baker will announce the administration's agreement for \$400 million in housing loan guarantees for Soviet Jews. Now barred from the United States, these immigrants are inundating Israel.

That lays a foundation on which to build the modest edifice of talks between Israelis and Palestinians. It may not look like the Taj Mahal, but compared to the long Reagan years of bowing to pressures from Israel and Bush's acceptance of Soviet force and violence in Lithuania, it shows what a principled position can accomplish," Evans and Novak wrote.

## Baker, Bethlehem mayor discuss Soviet Jewish immigration issue

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Secretary of State James Baker met with the mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Friej, at the State Department on April 9. The visiting mayor also met with the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs John Kelly.

Following the half-hour meeting with Baker, Friej told reporters that they discussed the

situation in the occupied territories and the Soviet Jewish immigration issue.

Friej said that he was "really satisfied" with the meeting and "encouraged" at what Kelly and Baker said to him. He said "the U.S. is committed to pursuing the peace process."

Friej said he "expects and hopes that with the cooperation of the new Israeli government, a

dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis will take place."

He is convinced, that Israel Labour Party leader Shimon Peres "is committed to a policy of a continued peace process."

"Soviet Jews settling in Israel is the business of Israel and the Soviet Union," Friej said, but added that he did not support Soviet Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

#### Syria accuses Israel of blocking peace

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria accused Israel Tuesday of blocking Middle East peace and said Damascus was building its strength to defend its rights and those of other Arab countries. The official daily Al Baath, organ of the ruling Baath Party, said Syria supported a "just and comprehensive peace" but was not ready to abandon Syrian and Arab rights. It said an international peace conference with all parties present was the best formula for achieving peace. "Syria had always proved that as much as she supports a just and comprehensive peace she is not ready to abandon any of her legitimate rights or those of Arabs. Syria is building her own strength in a way to enable her to defend herself and Arab rights in all circumstances and to stop the Israeli expansionism which is pushing incidents in the region towards explosion...."

#### Mahdi's son held over coup plot

LONDON (R) — Sudan's military government has detained 35 people, including the son of former Prime Minister Sadeq al-Mahdi, in connection with a coup plot it uncovered last month, a London-based Arabic newspaper said Tuesday. Ashraf al-Awsat, reporting from Khartoum, quoted an official source as saying those detained and being questioned about the plot included retired Lieutenant Abdul Rahman al-Mahdi, former aide to the ousted prime minister and serviceman. The coup plot was the first to be reported by the junta since it seized power from Mahdi's elected government in a coup last June that returned Sudan to military rule for the fourth time since independence in 1956.

#### Herzog hospitalised for stomach ulcer

TEL AVIV (AP) — President Chaim Herzog was hospitalised briefly over the weekend for tests and treatment for a bleeding stomach ulcer, his spokesman said Tuesday. Herzog, 71, complained of stomach pains Saturday night and was hospitalised for a short time Sunday for tests, said spokesman Giora Porides. "Now he's fine," Porides said. He added that he did not know if the president required a special diet or medication for the ailment. Porides' disclosure was the first word of Herzog's illness.

## Ankara restricts news from Kurdish areas

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The government has adopted new security measures to fight Kurdish unrest in southeastern Turkey.

The government decree, which went into effect Tuesday after its publication in the official Gazette, restricts news coverage of incidents in the region and increases the powers of the regional governor in charge of the 11 provinces where Kurdish guerrillas have been fighting for an independent Kurdistan.

The guerrillas belong to the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), a Marxist group which has camps in neighbouring Syria, Iraq and Iran.

An estimated 10 million of Turkey's population of 55 million are ethnic Kurds. They live dispersed in the rugged terrain of Turkey's eastern and southeastern areas.

The Turkish press will not be allowed to carry stories or analyses that might harm security operations, Mehmet Yazar, state minister and government spokesman, announced Monday evening after a seven-hour cabinet meeting.

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

#### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

#### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children's programme  
17:30 ..... Educational programme  
18:00 ..... News summary in Arabic  
18:05 ..... Cairo news message  
18:30 ..... Local programme  
18:40 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic programme  
21:30 ..... News in Arabic  
23:00 ..... News in Arabic  
23:40 ..... Play

#### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ..... La Valise en Carton  
19:30 ..... News in French  
19:40 ..... Documentary  
19:50 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Laura and Disorder  
21:10 ..... A Horseman Riding by "The Party"  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Guts and Glory

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:46 ..... Fajr  
05:57 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:26 ..... Dhuhr  
15:12 ..... 'Asr  
18:06 ..... Maghrib  
19:27 ..... 'Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfieh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terremata Church Tel. 623666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775251.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Another rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be westerly light becoming southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and sea rough.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim ..... 896294  
Dr. Joseph Imah ..... 770560  
Dr. Jamal Maray ..... 770646  
Dr. Saad Abu Hatab ..... 746689  
Firas Pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nakurah pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yaseen pharmacy ..... 649453  
Yaseen pharmacy ..... 637660  
IRABD:  
Dr. Ali Al Singairi ..... (—)  
Al Sharran pharmacy ..... (985238)

#### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 391228  
Blood Bank ..... 773121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Police Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power ..... 636381  
Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hamud Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 640216  
Akshid Maternity, J. Amn. .... 640412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 623262  
Mallat, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Damascus ..... 664171/4  
Sheikh Hospital ..... 660131  
University Hospital ..... 842845  
Al-Munshir Hospital ..... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/57  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Rafan, Al-Muhajira ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775112/26  
Army, Marj ..... 891617/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarga Govt. Hospital ..... (09)883325  
Zarga National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)967732  
IRABD:  
Princess Beama Hospital ..... (02)223555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)227275  
Ibn Ali Nafesa Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)914111

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
06:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
06:00 ..... London (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Larissa (RJ)  
06:25 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
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## Queen inaugurates Zarqa income-generating project

By Lima Nabli  
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Tuesday inaugurated the "Zarqa light footwear workshop" in Zarqa, a scheme engineered by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's "Women and Development Programme (WDP)" and financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

The project will provide job opportunities to 16 women of limited income or no income at all, who will be working in the workshop itself, in addition to those engaged in management and marketing the products.

"The overall objective of the scheme is to integrate women into the socio-economic development in Jordan, to widen the scope of their benefits and increase their income," according to WDP.

The Queen toured the workshop and was briefed by WDP director Salwa Al Masri about its programmes.

Dr. Ali Atiqah resident representative of the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan presented the Queen with a special UNFPA study which sums up the fund's achievements and provides assessment of the WDP's programmes.

UNDP Director Darwaz Alkhas, told the Jordan Times that the "light footwear" project was one of the projects designed to involve women's contribution to Jordan's development.

"It is possible that similar projects could be set up in other regions of Jordan," according to Alkhas.

Badia Jou'aneh chairperson of the Zarqa Housewives Society, affiliated to the General Federation of Jordanian Women, delivered a speech at the inauguration ceremony outlining the society's projects and said the new scheme was bound to help local women do something useful and constructive to help their own families and provide products at reasonable prices for the market.

Salwa Al Masri said that the "light footwear" scheme was one of the WDP's non-traditional projects designed to involve women from the Zarqa region in socio-economic development.

"Planning for the project started in 1989 under the supervision of a technical team which will conduct supervision over the production work and make an assessment," Masri said.

"All 16 women have been trained on the various stages of shoe-production lines which will turn out leather shoes for winter and summer," Masri said.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday tours a light footwear factory at Zarqa after opening the facility, which is expected to provide jobs for 16 women (Petra photo)

The workshop will be supplied with leather for shoes from the Jordan Tanning Company which the Queen visited after the inauguration ceremony.

The company director presented a briefing on the leather production and said that the company produced 560,000 square feet of tanned leather for export, of which 240,000 square feet were exported in the second half of 1989.

He spoke about the company's new programme and the future plans. "The company last year exported \$1.5 million worth of leather shoes, and is currently seeking to open new markets abroad in addition to supplying leather to the local market," he said.

According to U.N. officials all WDP-initiated schemes are financed by the UNFPA and these include: bee-keeping and honey

production in Karak governorate, planting medicinal herbs in Irbid governorate, rabbit production in Balqa governorate, ready to wear garments in Mafrq governorate, dolls in traditional costumes in Amman, informational and educational materials, business counselling for women entrepreneurs in small enterprises.

Among those attending the ceremony were governor of Zarqa Mohammad Shobaki.

## Suweimeh to benefit from development plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein will pay a follow-up visit to Suweimeh village Wednesday, where she will review progress in the "Quality of Life Development project" and join the villagers in a number of development and construction activities.

Suweimeh village lies at the northeastern tip of the Dead Sea — one of Jordan's most important tourist sites — at a distance of 24 kilometres south of southern Shuneh, the main entre in the fertile southern Jordan Valley, and a few kilometres from Tulciat Ghazul, one of the country's earliest settlements dating back to the Bronze Age.

The "Quality of Life Development Project" was formulated at the direction of Her Majesty the Queen, following a visit she made to Suweimeh in January 1988, where she met several local community members to acquaint herself with the village's developmental needs.

The overall developmental objective of the project is to enhance the quality of life of the people in the underdeveloped areas of Jordan through active involvement among the people and the encouragement of a positive life style.

Specifically, the project seeks to:

- identify the segments of the population whose basic needs must be upgraded in order to improve their quality of life,
- credit viable model development schemes in selected communities to be implemented by the people with the support and full partnership of all the concerned sectors of the government,
- expand successful intersectoral development models to a full coverage of the target segments of the population.

The project is being implemented by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation. In its first phase, it will benefit three villages in the various parts

of the country, starting with Suweimeh. It will later involve 12 other villages which will be networked with the other three villages.

During her visit to Suweimeh, Her Majesty the Queen will:

- attend a meeting of the Village Development Council (VDC) which also will be attended by representatives of the Village Clusters and the project's Technical Committee,
- visit the Health Centre which offers a health education class for women and medical examination for village children,
- visit the Jordan Cooperative Organisation's branch and the Animal Feed Distribution outlet in Suweimeh,
- help some villagers in planting fruit trees in their yards and inspect a number of goat houses and gardens which the villagers have started within the project's framework.

Upon arrival at the village, Her Majesty the Queen will be received by Faleh Al Gharaybeh, Governor of Balqa; Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, the Secretary General of the Jordan Valley Authority; Dr. Abdul Majed Abdul Hadi, the WHO Representative in Jordan; and officials of Balqa governorate and south Shuneh district; as well as members of the Village Development Council and the project's Technical Committee which is composed of representatives of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Jordan Valley Authority, the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture.

In implementing the project, the organisers utilise the "basic human needs concept and approach in social development," which has been tried successfully in Thailand as early as 1983. Since then, a standard implementation process has been developed as part of that country's national socio-economic development plan. Nowadays, at least 10,000 Thai villages have implemented development programmes of this nature.

So far, three main activities have been undertaken in Suweimeh:

- consensus building and social preparation in relation to the new concept and strategy among the facilitating agencies — policy-makers, administrators and technocrats,
- selection and training of an intersectoral technical team of development workers at the district level (southern Shuneh),
- a survey of basic needs carried out by the people themselves using those indicators which have been developed by the intersectoral technical team.

At the same time, a village development fund will be established with WHO support and contributions by the village people themselves. The fund will be responsible to support the community-based development projects.

The basic needs survey showed that Suweimeh has a total population of 1936 (1989 estimate). These constitute 224 families living in 146 houses and 23 tents. Around 28% of the population are engaged in agriculture, 2% in trade and 31% in services and tourism. The largest group (around 39%) are employees in the private and public sectors (including the Armed Forces).

The survey showed that the people were "very poor" in organising and/or attending public gatherings and functions; participating in clubs and societies; disseminating information; and maintaining public property. Around 85% of the females (wives only) and 45% of the males (husbands only) are illiterate. Half the women receive no ante-natal or post-natal care, while 40% of them deliver without proper attendance.

There were only 6 sanitary latrines. Nearly 97% of the houses had no latrines and 80% of them had minimum requirements for good housing. Two thirds of the family garbage containers were uncovered, while one third of the houses had sewage and stagnant water problems.

## National Aid Fund — a timely help for thousands

By Hana Darwazah  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Aid Fund for the poor is embarking on a project in which the fund will locate the needy in the country and provide them with financial assistance rather than waiting for the needy to seek them out.

According to Khalil Faouri, director general of the fund, the established 15 field offices located in various parts of the Kingdom are not sufficient for creating awareness of the existence of the fund and "there still exist large numbers of poor people who have no idea that it is there."

The fund plans to enroll the assistance of schools, the local police, various clubs and word of mouth to assist its fieldworkers in locating poor people.

Faouri told the Jordan Times in an interview that in 1989 the fund assisted 10,500

families or approximately 100,000 individuals per month. This assistance took on many forms, such as a monthly salary of up to JD 40 per family.

But more importantly, according to Faouri, the fund tries to encourage people to rely on themselves "by offering them training programmes in a useful trade such as carpentry or car mechanics for example. "After training a needy but capable individual, the fund offers him up to JD 3,000 to start his own business. Almost 65 per cent of this sum can be paid back, interest free, over 10 years or more if need be, while 35 per cent is an outright gift.

Since the fund was established in October 1986 at least 500 such projects have been initiated successfully. These projects are, according to Faouri, periodically followed up and further assistance is

offered if necessary. In accordance with its policy of "helping people to rely on themselves," the fund also has a programme for helping the physically handicapped become socially productive members of the work force.

"If a handicapped person is willing to work, but is unable to do so due to his deformity we help him out any way we can," Faouri said. The fund may provide him with a mechanical device such as a hearing aid or a wheel chair, "or we might try to find him employment by contacting local firms," according to Faouri.

It is noteworthy that any person receiving assistance from the fund automatically becomes eligible for the government health insurance plan.

Another task of the fund is to provide children of broken homes with foster homes. In these cases, the children's rela-

tives usually approach the fund offering to take up the children in their own homes. After studying each case including the child's own home and the relatives' home, a recommendation is made and a committee from the fund makes the final decision. The fund offers JD 20 a month for each child taken in.

The fund also tries to find homes, preferably with relatives for older people who have no one to look after them. Again JD 20 are offered a month for each person taken in.

In answer to a question by the Jordan Times on the criteria which defines poverty, Faouri said that the fund employs a large number of field social workers, who, upon encountering a needy family, would assess the level of poverty supported by legal documents to that effect, for example the death of the family's earner.

The social worker would then present a report to a committee consisting of the field office's director, the head of the concerned section, and the field worker himself. A recommendation would then be made and passed on to the main directorate which would act accordingly. This process usually takes less than a week according to Faouri.

The fund, which is an independent organisation affiliated to the Ministry of Social Development, is currently trying to coordinate with the ministry so as to cut down on its office work expenditure and reallocate its funds to benefit a greater number of people.

The fund's budget which is allocated by the government has almost doubled in 1990. In 1989, according to Faouri, JD 2,200,000 were allocated to the fund, while in 1990, the budget is JD 4,750,000.

## Union leaders to meet May 12

AMMAN (J.T.) — A conference for Arab presidents of professional unions will open in Amman May 12 to be followed by a march to the bridges across the River Jordan, according to Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi, president of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA).

"On May 14, a total of 5,000 people including presidents of the professional unions taking part in the conference will march to the bridges in a show of support for the Palestinians and in protest against continued occupation of Palestine," Abbadi said.

He told the Jordan Times that those expected to take part in the march will represent various unions, public and private organisations, refugee camps and journalists from Jordan and the Arab World.

"The march to the bridge is designed to increase the Arab governments' attention towards

taking proper action vis-a-vis the Palestinian problem and the continued Jewish immigration into Palestine," he added.

Abbadi, who will address a press conference Wednesday to give further details about the conference and the march, said the conference was expected to discuss the question of Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union.

Abbadi, who is secretary-general of a National Committee for the Support of the Palestinian Uprising, last month held a press conference where he announced that the committee had raised JD 489,227 in the first three months of 1990 — for the benefit of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

Last year the committee collected more than a million dinars which were distributed to the families of martyrs and the wounded.

## Cabinet endorses family health survey scheme

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Tuesday endorsed an agreement for carrying out a fertility and family health survey, already concluded between the Ministry of planning, the General Statistics Department and the American Institute for Resources Development.

Under the agreement, the Institute will provide \$247,553 towards costs of conducting the survey, which aims at collecting data on fertility, mortality, child and maternal care and pre-natal

care.

The cabinet also agreed on the exchange of memoranda with the West German government. Under the memoranda, to be signed soon by the Jordanian and West German governments, Jordan will get technical assistance from West Germany towards supporting the "artificial limbs" project, which will be carried out jointly by the National Medical Institute and the German Aid for

Technical Cooperation.

In its Tuesday session, the cabinet agreed to the issuance of a stamp marking the 40th anniversary of establishing the United Nations Development Programme. The cabinet also approved the appointment of Awwad Saleh Al Lawzi, a senior official at the Central Bank of Jordan, as representative of the bank in the Postal Saving Fund's board of directors.

### Labour

(Continued from page 1)

convene for a special session in the Tel Avi suburb of Kfar Saba later Tuesday to approve Labour's candidate for the cabinet.

Peres and Rabin were only expected to present a list of candidates, but not name their designated portfolios, said Labour legislator Shimon Shetret.

Peres is the candidate for prime minister, and Rabin, who is a number two in Labour, is likely to return to the post of defence minister he left when Labour pulled out of its coalition with Likud bloc last month.

Other senior Labour ministers, including Gad Yaacobi, Moshe Shabai and Chaim Bar-Lev were also expected to be appointed to the new cabinet.

Several portfolios have already been promised to Labour's coalition partners. Agudat Israel will receive the portfolios of housing and social welfare. Sharir will become minister of transportation and tourism in return for his defection from Likud.

Several cabinet posts will be left open for distribution to other potential coalition partners. Peres has said he hoped other parties would join his government once it has been approved by parliament.

The outgoing cabinet had 25 members, including several without portfolio.

## Cerebral palsy children to get special education

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) announced Tuesday its intention to open a kindergarten and a school to provide special education to children with cerebral palsy, and it appealed to wealthy people to extend a helping hand.

A statement here said that since its establishment, the CPF had provided treatment and counselling to 4,400 children suffering from cerebral palsy.

"The projected school will be adjoined to a special centre to produce equipment needed by cerebral palsy cases, which would otherwise be imported," the statement said.

It said that most of the equipment will be supplied free to the patients.

The statement urged all Muslims to benefit from the holy month of Ramadan during which they can provide financial and humanitarian assistance to needy members of the Jordanian society.

According to CPF Director Fakhri Bilbeisi, the school will help the children to join normal schools at a later stage.

He said that the number of children with cerebral palsy was on the increase and noted that the five CPF centres in Jordan continue to provide treatment free of charge.

Bilbeisi said that the running cost of a school providing special education at the hand of specialised teams who conduct physiotherapy sessions for children is expected to reach up to JD 40,000 annually.

He told the Jordan Times that the school is urgently needed and is intended by the CPF essentially as a pilot project that can later attract government attention and donations from various organisations.

According to Bilbeisi, the CPF's five centre located in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Aqaba and Salt provide special treatment for children free of charge at a cost of JD170,000 annually.

Bilbeisi said that the CPF would continue to organise its annual campaign during October each year, so as to raise funds from the public to help finance its humanitarian projects.

School and university students normally take part in the campaign, distributing pamphlets and collecting contributions for the humanitarian cause.

## Cleanliness campaign planned for Earth Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment announced Tuesday that it will observe Arab Environment Day on Oct. 14 and not Oct. 24 as announced by one of the Jordanian dailies; the ministry said that it will organise a special programme in observance of Earth Day which falls on April 22.

Khalaf Oqlah from the ministry's Department of Environment said that the Arab Environment Day is in observance of an annual event agreed on by Arab ministers responsible for the environment during a meeting in Tunis held in 1986, and in harmony with the ongoing programmes by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

During the 1989 celebrations the minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment said "Jordan was in the process of preparing a regional environment information centre in Jordan, since for the Kingdom, environment is one of the most important issues."

The minister said that the Kingdom's environment strategy implemented in cooperation with the UNEP and through the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature is designed to control its water resources and provide protection to natural resources.

The strategy, according to ministry sources, entails combating desert encroachment over arable land, dealing with industrial pollution, spreading public awareness and educating the public on means of protecting the environment.

According to the Department of Environment, a special programme will be implemented on April 22 in cooperation with various municipal councils in the country.

The programme entails raising posters, organising cleanliness campaigns with students, planting trees in public gardens and along roads, paving sidewalks, planting flowers along main streets, removing animal enclosures from wherever they might be located inside cities, tightening control over poultry slaughter houses, maintaining control over market places and taking extra care of the garbage bins located in residential areas.

The statement urged members of the public to take part in the cleanliness campaign.

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Prince Hassan receives church delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received at the Royal Court a delegation representing the World Council of Churches, which is currently on a tour in the region. Prince Hassan briefed the delegation on the situation in the Arab region and the conditions in the occupied Arab territories. The Crown Prince stressed Jordan's support for the Palestinian people and explained the inherent dangers in the Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories. Prince Hassan noted that the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories is a violation of international legitimacy and described it as illegal.

#### Lawzi, Singh discuss Kashmir

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ahmad Al Lawzi, speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, received in his office in the House of Parliament Tuesday Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gajendra Singh. Discussions covered the strong relations of cooperation and friendship between Jordan and India, particularly in the parliamentary field. Discussions also tackled the question of Kashmir. Lawzi reiterated the Senate's attitude supporting the Simla agreement signed by and between the governments of India and Pakistan in 1972 calling for the settlement of their differences by peaceful means.

#### Zarqa parley reviews press' problems

ZARQA (Petra) — Deputy Fakhri Kawa and Jordan Press Association (JPA) President Hashem Khreizat discussed Tuesday problems facing the press and ways to solve them through free democratic dialogue based on cooperation. In a seminar held at Zarqa Chamber of Commerce entitled "Press and Democracy" Khreizat and Kawa discussed ways to develop the level of the media in the Kingdom and urged the enactment of a new law for publications. The seminar was attended by senator Ibrahim Taqiddin and deputies Salameh Al Gheiri and Ziad Abu Mahfouz.

#### Chief of protocol transferred

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chief of Protocol Fawwaz Abu Tayeh has been transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The agency said that Abu Tayeh will serve with the rank of ambassador but did not give details. Abu Tayeh's successor as chief of protocol at the Royal Court was not disclosed.

#### Drug fighting needs 'global cooperation'

IRBID (Petra) — Director of the Arab Anti-Narcotic Bureau, brigadier Hashem Al Qaisi Tuesday delivered a lecture at Yarmouk University on global and inter-Arab cooperation to fight drugs and addiction. After reviewing the potential scopes of inter-Arab cooperation in combating narcotics, Al Qaisi pointed out that the Council of Arab Interior Ministers' general-secretariat had already drawn up a provisional five-year plan (1988-1992) to address the narcotics issue in the Arab region. Qaisi noted that any effective measures to combat narcotics and addiction require global cooperation.

#### Maan governor visits Tabouk

MAAN (Petra) — Maan Governor Eid Al Qatameh discussed Tuesday with Prince Fahd Ibn Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, Prince of Tabouk region in Saudi Arabia, border issues and pastures. During a visit to Tabouk at an invitation extended to him by Prince Fahd, Qatameh discussed with the prince the prospects of facilitating the travel of Jordanian pilgrims across Hala Ammar border post.

#### Committee to study street maintenance

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Municipal Committee Tuesday decided to form a committee to study the reasons for the delay in maintaining streets, including Jerusalem street, Ali Ibn Abu Taleb street, Prince Hassan street, Khawla Bint Al Azwar street, Al Muthanna Ben Haritha street and Bab Al Khalil street. The committee also approved the plan drawn up by the municipality to spend on capital projects in 1990.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* The Islamic book exhibition which includes books on Islam, literature, psychology, sociology, education, philosophy, law and history at Yarmouk University.
- \* Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* Exhibition of paintings by Khalil Al Kofahi at the Yarmouk University.
- \* Comprehensive book exhibition at Ajloun girls college.

### THEATRE

- \* Arabic children's play entitled "Tales from My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m.

### LECTURE

- \* Lecture by Nelly Luna entitled "Tapestry Through Ages" at the Marriott Hotel — 10:00 a.m.

### SEMINAR

- \* Seminar, in Arabic, entitled "The Islamic Reality in the West" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.



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Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
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Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

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Facsimile: 661242

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## Here come the senators

THERE are many ways to deal with the U.S. Senate's Resolution Number 106 purporting to grant Israel full control over Jerusalem. The simplest way is to ignore it as an utterly useless and immoral act that has won for the U.S. Senate contempt from more than one quarter. As a matter of fact, this was not the first time that the Senate had put its feet in its mouth nor will it be the last. One reason why the Senate went as far as it did, in an open defiance of official and long standing American policy on Jerusalem as well as that of international law and norms, may have been recognition of its own limitations on forging American foreign policy. In other words, the U.S. Senate has taken for granted that its ridiculous pronouncements on Jerusalem are academic and in the final analysis the status of Jerusalem will never be determined in the U.S. Senate. Another way to confront the resolution is to have Arab governments, parliaments and political institutions hold the U.S. Senate accountable for exceeding the law and ethics on the issue of Jerusalem and to ask the simple question: Since when do American congressmen have the legal or moral authority to decide the fate of issues in a manner contrary to international and national norms. In reprisal for the move, if reprisals were the name of the game in such instances, an Arab parliament could stand up to declare the U.S. Senate an outlaw body that stuck its nose in a matter which it is not entitled or equipped to deal with.

A third course to take vis-a-vis the American lawmakers would be to seize upon the opportunity of the visiting U.S. Senate delegation to express the country's anger and indignation at their House's unwarranted interference in the sensitive subject of Jerusalem. Hospitality and courtesy are one thing and swallowing a big insult is another. Jordanians have not asked in the past nor are they likely to ask any individual American not to come here and visit. But such hospitality should not prevent us from speaking frankly and honestly with visitors, be they individuals or U.S. senators. Those Jordanians who will meet with their senators will probably supply them with literature on the question of Jerusalem and argue for legitimate Arab rights in the city. They may even express sympathy with the mechanics of U.S. electioneering. Still, they should also express our people's indignation in no uncertain terms at the Senate's infamous decision. After all it is the whole American credibility which is at stake here, not to mention the U.S. Congress' intellectual worthiness. The U.S. Senate must know that resolution or no resolution by the U.S. Senate, the Arab side will continue its legitimate struggle to liberate Jerusalem from Israel's occupation.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

The formation of the Royal Commission to work out a national charter for Jordan is the first step towards laying down the basis for building up an ideal democratic state in which representatives of various spectrums will be able to contribute to the success of the democratic process, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily in an editorial Tuesday. The paper said that the proposed charter is bound to encompass all schools of thought and ideologies and all political affiliations and tendencies so as to serve as a true base for democracy and pluralism. The charter will mean pooling all resources and potentials, and the commission members will be hard at work to work out such an umbrella that would involve all sectors in the process of unifying the Jordanian family's efforts towards further construction and development and towards confronting the threats and dangers posed to the Kingdom, said the paper. The election of Parliament in the past year is among the numerous achievements in which all Jordanians can take pride; but with the introduction of the national charter, the country is bound to enter a new phase of serious endeavours on the part of all Jordanians as the King has promised the nation, and in true commitment to the concept of democratic rule, the paper added.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday notes that those responsible for the country's economic difficulties and those who are in a position to steal public funds still hold their positions. Tareq Masarweh says that unless the government carried out a wide scale purge throughout its various institutions to flush out the "bad people" and unless the government was backed its action by a law enacted by parliament, the situation would not change. It is not difficult for the government to take this measure, and it should do so as long as the ordinary citizen is shouldering the heavy burden of the economic restructuring programme which was agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the writer notes. He says that Jordanian citizens would not doubt accept this burden and would be willing to offer further sacrifices if they saw the government serious in amputating corruption once and for all, from all departments and public institutions. The Jordanian citizens, the writer adds, have already accepted the present situation of soaring prices as wages and salaries remain frozen, but it is their right to see the national institutions free of all corruption created by those elements who had amassed wealth at the expense of their nation and their people.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the outcome of the Jerusalem committee meeting in Rabat which discussed in detail the question of Jewish immigration into Palestine and urged the United States to stop its financial aid to Israel and called on Europe to close centres which process the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine. The paper said that the committee which met under the chairmanship of King Hassan of Morocco recalled that Romanian and Israeli aircraft have in three days' time carried 2,500 Jews to occupied Palestine and said that the Arabs are determined to put an end to the immigration and to protect their national interests.

## Economic Forum

# Trade deficit: Blessing or curse?

Dr. Abdallah Malki

DUE to a certain ailment, I had to give up reading the Economist, Business Week, Financial Times and Wall Street Journal in the period November 1989 through January 1990. As I cannot afford to miss reading any of the editions of these publications, I started reading the back issues and was most happy to read P.C. Roberts' article in Business Week (Nov. 13, 1989) headed "Time to trade in our old notions about deficits." I invite the readers to a review of the main theme of this most enjoyable article whether they dispute or approve it.

Roberts rejects the twin-deficit theory which blames the budget deficit for the trade deficit. His empirical evidence was the trade surplus enjoyed by Canada despite a budget deficit that is proportionately larger than that of United States. Another different but telling evidence was Britain's record trade deficit despite a large budget surplus.

However, the most admirable part of Roberts' theorisation was his argument that the

trade deficit, (or more accurately the current account deficit as this account encompasses the trade balance) is a symptom, so to speak, of the confidence in the national economy. Countries with investment opportunities that attract capital, whether their own or that of foreign countries, so runs his argument, enjoy surpluses in their capital account, which require offsetting in their current account or balance of trade. A surplus in the capital account can be a sign of success because it indicates that a country can attract its own capital and that of others. In contrast, countries with trade surpluses, such as Japan and West Germany, are exporting both their capital and their goods.

To explain the situation for non-specialist readers we recall that a current account deficit must imply that it is financed from external borrowing; otherwise the existence of such a deficit is impossible. If the deficit widens, external borrowing, or more accurately capital flows, will have to ex-

pand proportionately. In still more expressive terms, as capital flows dwindle so does the current deficit. If they dry up, the current deficit will be eliminated as the respective country will have no funds to pay for imports of goods and services.

Roberts' argument plausibly rests on the notion that capital inflows are the independent variable. This means that they occur in response to factors that strengthen the confidence in the national economy. Capital thus earned is used to finance more imports which mean wider trade deficits. As surplus countries, such as Japan and West Germany, look for (deficit) countries to which to export their financial surplus, they pick up the ones with the strongest economies. Here lies Roberts' notion that trade deficits signal healthy economies which muster the confidence of investors, i.e. suppliers of capital in the form of loans or medium and long term investments.

Does this mean that we can rejoice at Jordan's chronic

trade deficit or at least its occasional current account deficit? Certainly not; the analysis above is not applicable to developing countries or at least to countries whose currencies are not freely convertible.

To grasp the interrelationships involved in the above analysis, we have to remember that the related lending by surplus to deficit countries is a spontaneous process which materialises automatically through the complete and unlimited acceptance by the surplus country of the currency of the deficit country in settlement of its dues arising from its exports to the deficit country. The condition of complete and unlimited acceptance is satisfied only in the case of freely convertible currencies. In this case the funds received will technically be a loan easily transferable to third parties through the simple action of surrendering them to other countries to settle any transactions. The third countries can roll this loan to others, and so on and so forth, in an almost endless process that perpet-

ates this loan which becomes, in the case of banknotes, a grant for all practical purposes. The dollar banknotes circulated outside the U.S. are interest-free loans provided to the U.S. and are amortised only when they are used in payments made to American residents. But because there is always a certain amount of these banknotes abroad, afloat so to speak, this loan is practically a grant extended to the U.S. by the holders who might be very poor persons or countries.

The currency of a developing country, say Jordan, is not freely convertible and thereby is not accepted for the settlement of international payments. When it runs a trade deficit, Jordan has to finance it from its foreign exchange reserves (i.e., accumulated balance of payment surpluses). If these do not suffice, external loans have to fill in the gap. It can not rely on foreign investment because its absorptive capacity is limited as well. Foreign investment has the advantage of

servicing itself by itself because if it is not profitable, it will reap no return. Foreign loans have to be serviced no matter how productive or unproductive they are. And the capacity of a developing country to borrow is limited. Thus a developing country ends up with the worst of two worlds, that is a trade (or current account deficit) and a ballooning external debt.

The current account encompasses the balance of trade, the balance of services and the balance of the so-called unrequited transfers which are nothing but grants from other countries. These grants are used by recipient developing countries to finance the deficit in their balance of goods and services. When they diminish for whatever reasons, the external indebtedness starts to swell until it reaches unmanageable volumes. Here start all the sorts of headaches such as IMF intervention, rescheduling and the rest. You of course heard about these headaches in Jordan last year.

(Continued from page 1)

are well informed on this subject. I merely recall some facts to you out of concern for the success of our transition to democracy and our commitment to institutionalising and protecting it, to ensure that it fulfils its bright and pure promise, which is befitting of our people who will reap its rewards.

If the concern to protect democracy and preserve its bright promise is to be meaningful and guaranteed, it should not be limited to me alone. It should be universal and shared by all. To realise this, our concern should transcend emotions and good intentions to become institutionalised by including and committing everybody. This means that society must be bound by a social contract that is pivoted on democracy and founded on the constitution, finding shelter in it, and at the same time, protecting it. Care for democracy and warnings against digressions from its noble aims are not sufficient. "God may choose to implement through authority what he did not implement through the Koran." Hence come our meeting which, as I mentioned, is the beginning of the second phase in building democracy and taking it beyond constitutional text to a tangible reality. Our task in this phase will be to draw a national charter that achieves a national consensus, in preparation for the practice of political pluralism. I have launched the idea and defined the objective, but only in the certainty that I acted through my absolute conviction, and that of all the people, that constitutional parliamentary life is our common choice, and the path from which there will be no turning back. It is the choice which we shall protect and care for, so it can take root and grow solid with time, reaping benefit to our nation and future generations.

Before discussing the features of the proposed social contract, I find it important to explain and clarify some impressions and concepts. The fact that should be remembered is that this decision came immediately after the disengagement of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in July 1988.

This decision was followed by the amendment of the election law in preparation for elections, after removing the obstacle that had hitherto prevented them. Hence, the decision to initiate the transition to democracy, primarily by holding general elections, came by our initiative and by our conscious will, as an expression of our commitment to the constitution. Anyone who thinks that I was comfortable with the situation which prevailed in the absence of an elected parliament, or that I was happy bearing most of the burden, is mistaken. In the absence of full institutional participation, I had to exert extraordinary efforts to monitor general tendencies and keep abreast with the various positions and interpretations through all available formal, journalistic, and personal channels, to seek guidance from them and define the correct position and the sound policy that realised the general good, in maintaining national security or continuing the process of development and progress. In other words, I, as an individual, had to try to compensate for the efforts of the absent parliament. This was the only available choice to fulfill the responsibility in view of the circumstances that prevailed, over and above my national and international responsibilities which I continue to bear. At that time, I could only hope for the day when institutional participation became a reality, and the representatives of the nation did their share of bearing responsibility and making decisions. Finally, the decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank provided the right opportunity to achieve that aspiration and fulfill that duty.

The decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank opened the door for general elections; but it was the events of last April that inspired the need to renew the social contract. You may remember that my first distinct reference to a national charter came immediately after the events of last April. Those events revealed important facts, paramount among which, was that our society was living in a state of socioeconomic tension. This tension

was not unique to Jordan, since many societies in the developing and developed worlds have passed or are passing through a similar experience for one reason or another.

It was only natural that all intellectual and political groups in our society should confront this painful situation, diagnose it, and offer opinions on ways to cure it.

Despite some common conclusions on some aspects of the problem, there were differences and contradictory views on others. This revealed a considerable level of intellectual confusion, which was, basically, the result of disagreements among some of these groups on certain fundamental principles and ultimate objectives of the state.

We had already committed ourselves to holding parliamentary elections; but it became evident that elections, in themselves, would be an insufficient remedy. That would have meant entering the phase of parliamentary participation with varying convictions on some of the fundamental tenets and precepts upon which the Kingdom is founded. That would have certainly paralysed our ability to solve our problems and cope with the grave challenges and dangers facing our nation in the present critical circumstances of which you are aware. If democracy is to be the means to build and mobilise, and an incentive to release talents and rejuvenate individuals and institutions, as well as a cornerstone of our national security, then it becomes essential that we agree on a broad and flexible framework for national action. This framework will be the charter. As I stated earlier, the charter will not be a substitute for the Constitution. It will posit basic visions and national concepts that determine the functioning of the state. It will constitute a regulator of the state's various activities in politics, economy, security, social affairs, and culture.

Doubtless, you are aware that some of our basic national concepts need to be clarified, while others from past decades, need to be revised, in the light of changes in our society which resulted from national development and interaction with the world.

I am certain that you are able to fulfill this task in view of your wide culture and experience, deep commitment, insight, and awareness of the affairs and concerns of our society.

You have been selected for this august task because you are among the elite which lived the woes and hopes of the country in your thought, work, and heart. You have devoted your lives to the progress, security and liberty of the nation. I know, as I talk to you, that you collectively represent the various schools of political thought in Jordan. It is natural for civilised people to differ on matters of approach, but they agree on principles and objectives. Differences in opinion among such people enrich their ability to excel and progress to realise greater achievements and be able to safeguard them. Differences in outlook remain legitimate and permissible as long as they do not contradict the constitution, lead to strife, tear the fabric of national unity, imperil the security of the state, or suppress our Arab national identity.

A glance at our past, specifically, before the past three decades, requires us to reaffirm the right which the Jordanian Constitution grants in its sixteenth article. That article upholds the right of Jordanians to form political organisations and parties, provided that their objectives are legitimate, their methods peaceful, and their covenants compatible with the Constitution. In those days, permission was given to form political organisations and parties in compliance with our belief in the democratic process, and our commitment to uphold the Constitution.

There is no need to dwell on the details of that period of our political life. The outcome of that experiment was not positive. I need only point to two factors, which our generation knows very well: First: Most political organisations in those days did not conform to legitimate and universally accepted conventions. The positions of their local followers were governed by the positions and dictates of their leaders from abroad.

Second: Every one of those parties acted as if it, alone, held the truth and possessed the wisdom to serve the public good.

The leaders of those parties overlooked the most important principle of democracy, namely, that nobody has a monopoly on truth, and that to make such a claim is, in itself, a type of closed mindedness and fanaticism that destroyed it. Democracy is based on dialogue. The output of the state's activities in legislation, decision making and political positions is the result of this dialogue.

Because each party believed that it had a monopoly on the truth, it viewed other parties as the enemy. Some of them went so far as to regard the regime that gave them this democratic umbrella as an enemy that should be liquidated. Consequently, democratic process changed from one that serves society, to action that sought power at the expense of democracy and the interest of the citizens. In their quest for power, those people allowed themselves to break another tenet of political pluralism which is to refrain from violence. They competed with one another to infiltrate the Armed Forces, believing that this was the shortest and most expedient means to achieve their ends. There is scarcely any need to remind you of the negative effects of the military's involvement in politics wherever a society allowed that to happen. It was necessary to uphold the principle of keeping the army professional, distant from political strife, shielding the country and the great Arab Nation. This will remain one of our most sacred principles.

We are in agreement, I believe, that the outcome of that experiment was much harm to the nation, the people, and the political parties themselves. Had everyone avoided this result we would have been spared the absence of political pluralism over many years. I have always been very

keen to protect pluralism since it is the only guarantee of national unity. It constitutes the threads of different colours that weave the fabric of our national unity. Agreement on objectives should always be the deterrent against claiming to monopolise truth and seeking to impose that monopoly on others by force or other forms of malpractice. In that period, there developed a misunderstanding among these organisations, which may have not been deliberate in the early stages. Its cause may have been that the formation of these political organisations and parties came in the early days of independence, very shortly after the period of national liberation. There developed confusion which was at times deliberate and at others inadvertent, over the duties and responsibilities of these organised political forces. This confusion reflected itself directly and clearly on the concept of nation building which is the responsibility of everyone, on the one hand, and the quest for power, on the other, which is the objective of a few.

Despite the responsibilities imposed on Jordan by its location and outlook, Jordan surmounted innumerable challenges and obstructions. Now, as it resumes parliamentary life, it enters a new phase, determined to solve its problems and face its challenges with capability. We must bear in mind our most prominent attribute, whose nobility and efficacy have stood the test of time, and which (reaffirms) that the constitution will always be the binding criterion of commitment, opinion, and work.

Jordan is the legitimate heir of the Great Arab Revolt, whose ideology and objectives are not limited to political or military emancipation, but transcend them to two important dimensions: Progress, which means releasing all the nation's energy to

achieve development, prosperity, and security; and unity, which means mobilising all the nation's energies in a comprehensive manner that leads to the progress and national security of the whole Arab Nation.

Jordan's commitment to help the Palestinian people and their just cause is a historic and fateful part of its national commitment. Jordan will continue to exert all available resource to support the struggle of the Palestinian people under its national leadership, represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, until it achieves its just objectives of freedom and independence on its national soil.

Jordan is in a relentless, constant and earnest quest for progress, in a framework of openness and adherence to its national identity, which is derived from its Arab Islamic culture. In doing so, Jordan embodies another principle of the Great Arab Revolt. Our spiritual heritage is the cornerstone of our Arab culture, the basis of our existence, and the bedrock of our social coherence and moral well being.

The building of the Jordanian Kingdom, and its ambitious achievement in presenting a model of Arab democracy, was all achieved in a familiar spirit borne of affection, tolerance, moderation, and enlightened debate. It was achieved in spite of the prevailing historic, geographic and political circumstances, the disparity between resources and population, and the military burden of protecting the longest line of confrontation with Israel. Despite the various influences to which our country was exposed, differences in opinions, ideas and outlooks, remained too small to touch the sacred fabric of our national unity, or to subject our country to the affliction of others, in the deterioration of human relations, harsh settling of scores, or the rejection of rational arbitration in debating opinions or viewpoints.

In conclusion, I am happy to entrust you, in the name of the Arab Jordanian people, with the noble task which we pledged to perform before ourselves and our people, to draft a national charter which achieves a national consensus and embodies the foundations on which the Kingdom stands, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Constitution. The charter should be the true practical reflection of our cultural essence, and our deep awareness of the lessons learnt from our experience and that of others. It should meet the requirements of development and national security. It should constitute the shield that protects democracy, the landmark that defines direction, and the criterion that identifies the right approach. It should be the reference that guides government and other institutions of the Kingdom in the ideas they posit, the policies they draw, and the plans they draft. It should help us achieve our goals of prosperity and progress in its national and regional dimensions, as defined by the challenges of our time and location, by human interaction, scientific achievement, and global change.

The problems and challenges that face us are tangible. They are neither illusions nor mere utterances, but material facts and real problems related to the resources of Jordan, its location, and its national standpoint. Our people live these problems and hope to see them solved, not to hear sterile debate about them, nor to have their attention distracted from them to illusory causes, away from the national interest of building a secure and prosperous future. We must remember that all the people and the state, in all its branches are all in the same boat. No one whosoever will be allowed to rock that boat.

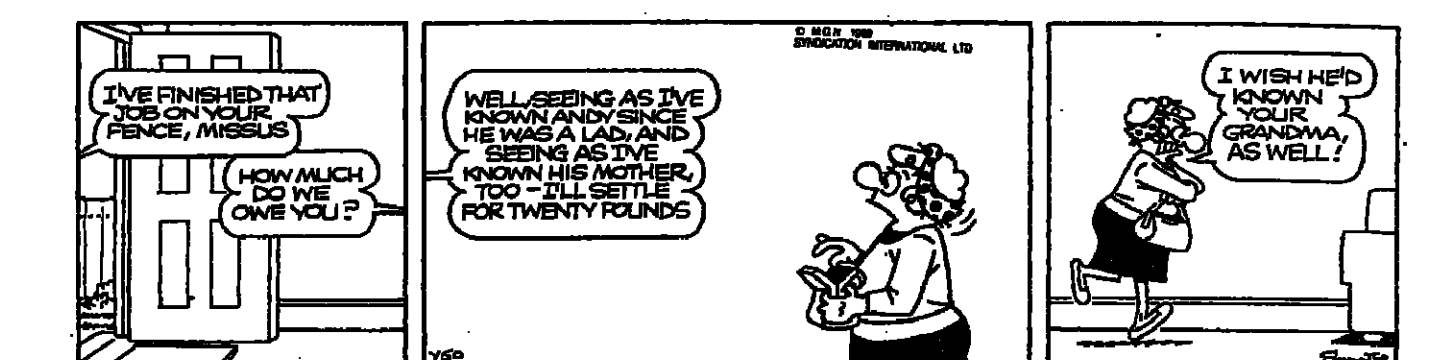
May God grant you success in bearing the responsibility. We know your knowledge, honesty, capability, and sense of belonging, to complete it in all possible speed and with due care.

I pray to God to direct us to the right path and grant us assistance and strength to fulfill His will.

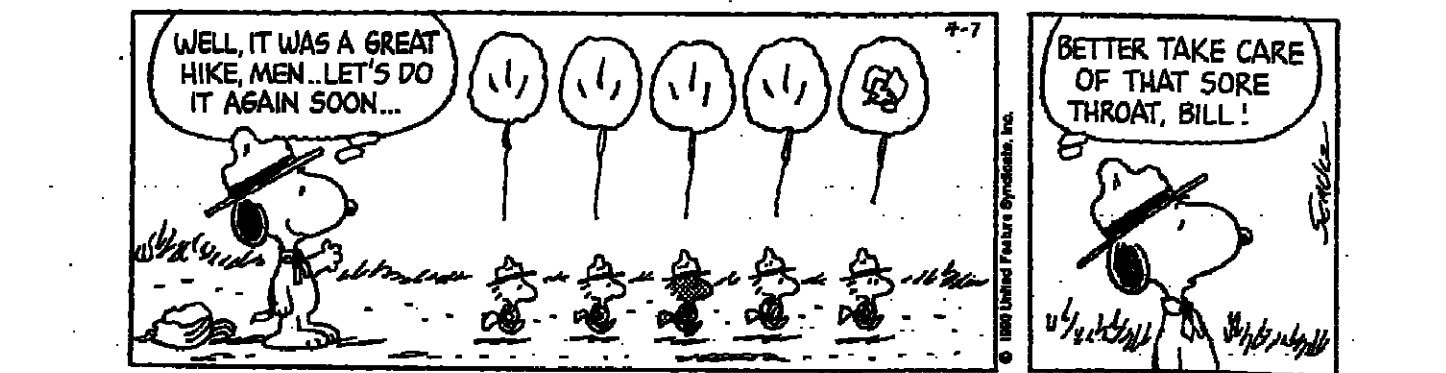
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## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



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## With 'friends' like these, who needs enemies?

IN THE eighties, and probably before, a certain U.S. congressman from New York used to drop in on us here in Jordan to check on what was happening to the peace process during that period and ask his usual awkward questions. The man, apart from being Jewish-American himself, was so pro-Israel that some of us Jordanians who had met with him started to ask some awkward questions ourselves. Why should we meet with such an automatically pro-Israel, instinctively anti-Arab U.S. representative? Could we possibly taper his pro-Zionist bigotry or preempt him from slandering us politically when he moved on to visit Israel next and he went back to Capitol Hill? Why should such a blind protector of Israel be allowed to come here again when all his previous visits had ended in new crusades against Arab policies and the Palestinian cause in the U.S. Congress and in the streets of New York?

Answers to these questions were attempted and volunteered by some government

officials sometimes, but mainly by Arab-American organisations and pro-Arab lobbyists in the U.S. and by American diplomats here. Government officials usually maintained that channels of communications should remain open with American lawmakers so that the Israelis did not step in to sabotage what was left of the potentially useful Arab-American dialogue. Arab-American organisations went around in Washington looking for senators and representatives and their staff to invite them to make the rounds in the Arab World. As to American diplomats, well, they or some of them at least, would imagine the unthinkable.

Stephen Solarz, the congressman whose story appears above, is the protector of Jerusalem as the property of Israelis alone, they would say. Without Solarz and his positive influence on Capitol Hill (on behalf of the Arabs presumably) Congress would have adopted a resolution recognising Jerusalem as the capital of

Israel, one senior American diplomat once said. As it turned out the most pro-Israeli congressmen were really our good friends, and we did not know it. It was that funny.

Solarz may or may not be reigning supreme still as sub-chairman of the sub-committee on Asian affairs of the House of Representatives. But what matters is that he is not coming to visit us any time soon. Instead, some five of his colleagues in the Senate are dropping in on us today.

The timing of their visit is interesting, since at least some of these gentlemen have just voted Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. It was a voice vote in the Senate's session that adopted the resolution, and therefore we could not exactly figure out who was among the 84 senators who supported the resolution and why. We do know, however, that what Senator Dole said in Damascus in commenting on the resolution was not enough to dispel our fears about the Senate's dangerous position on

Jerusalem.

Now, how the gentlemen who voted for the infamous resolution have the audacity to come here, to visit no less than four Arab countries, saying they are on a mission of peace, we do not know.

How they can be welcomed to visit the four Arab states is another of the old/new awkward questions that we have to ask ourselves. What kind of peace Dole and his fellow senators are looking for, when they have continuously trampled on all that may have contributed to peace-making in the area? Are these gentlemen really taking themselves seriously or are they intentionally immersing themselves in ignorance and political naivete?

Senators who voted to give Jerusalem to the Israelis without an iota of right on their side should be talked to about the folly of their recent action. They should be told to cleanse themselves from the political dirt that the Israelis keep

throwing at them.

Lest they forget, the Jerusalem resolution that they have adopted is not only morally and ethnically and historically wrong. It is also contrary to what they themselves implied in the language used in the resolution of March 22.

Not only is Resolution 106 based on false pretenses and Israeli fabrications of the truth, it is also in contradiction with the United States administration position on the issue of Jerusalem since 1967. Or do we need to remind the peace-loving senators that Jerusalem has been considered an integral part of the Israeli-occupied Arab territories by all successive U.S. administrations since the 1967 war?

The assumption by the U.S. Senate that Jerusalem "has been a united city," administered by Israel since 1967, is in direct contradiction of United Nations Resolution 242 which has been accepted by the world over, including the U.S., as an

integral part of any peace process in the Middle East. Have our visiting senators forgotten international law which clearly forbids occupying powers from annexing occupied territory by force?

In drafting the resolution, its sponsors said that since its occupation of the city by the Israelis, "persons of all religious faiths have been guaranteed full access to holy sites within the city." This is another indication of either the naivete of the U.S. Senate or an example of how facts could be distorted to serve illegitimate Israeli interests and designs. Has anybody in the U.S. Senate been reading the newspaper reports of Israeli harassment of Muslims and Christians heading to their holy places? Or is that immaterial to them, just like U.N. resolutions and international law?

As for mention in the resolution that Israeli citizens were prevented from visiting the holy places in East Jerusalem between 1948 and 1967, it seems that our friendly senators need

to go back to their history books for an hour or two. If they did, they would instantly become familiar with Israel's refusal at the time to implement the article of 1949 armistice agreement allowing Jordanian Christians to visit their holy places in Nazareth, in return for allowing Jews to visit Arab Jerusalem. History of that period would also teach the senators that Christians living in Israel were allowed to visit the holy places and their passage was arranged through the mixed armistice commission. These are facts, historical affidavits which are in direct contradiction with the distortions and half-truths which were included in Senate Resolution 106. When all these facts have escaped the attention and knowledge of the senators who voted for the resolution and are now traversing really under-stand what is happening in the Middle East? When all these senators, all five of them, voted against the issuance of a visa to Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat

and refused to listen to what he had to say, how could we allow them a forum to say what they want and all they want against peace?

We are not about to call for boycotting the visit of the five American gentlemen to our country or for expelling them from our land. This country has always opened arms for people from all over the world and will continue to do so. What we are striving to say, and in this we think we reflect the thinking and feelings of the majority of Jordanians and Palestinians, is that our American visitors cannot be taken seriously as true envoys of peace in our area.

For over 23 years now, mainstream Arab politics has believed in the value of dialogue with American policymakers, and quite often in their mediation efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is all changing now, as we have come to realise that double-talk retards the cause of peace rather than help it, and that automatic anti-Arab and pro-Israeli policies will lead nowhere

### U.S. senators due today

(Continued from page 1)

alike were questioning the purpose of the visit "only a few weeks after the adoption of resolution of Jerusalem and the fuss about Iraq."

As if to address at least part of the questions, Dole said after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo Tuesday that the delegation had added Baghdad in its schedule and would proceed to the Iraqi capital Thursday.

Mubarak "picked up the phone and arranged a meeting on Thursday" for the senators with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Dole told journalists. The Egyptian leader's action followed his discussions with the Senate delegation on American-Iraqi relations, which have taken a plunge in the wake of U.S. and British charges that Baghdad sought to acquire triggering devices

for atomic bombs and a subsequent, though unrelated, expulsions of an Iraqi diplomat from the U.S. and an American diplomat from Baghdad.

According to Dole, "one thing we discussed (with Mubarak) was Iraq and our relationship and the fact that we are trying to see President Saddam Hussein," Dole said. "We just went to listen (to Hussein). We are not going to say 'you're wrong.' We want to hear his point of view," Dole said.

The Senate delegation, which began its Middle East visit in Damascus Sunday, met with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad for what Dole described as "frank and constructive talks" on the situation in Lebanon, the hostages, and means of achieving peace in the Middle East (see page 2).

### 'Frank' talks in Damascus

(Continued from page 2)

the enemy. We came here because we are concerned that while the rest of the world is moving towards peaceful solutions, this part of the world is not moving very rapidly.

Simpson: I always say if I might, and it's just as appropriate here as anywhere else — as in the United States — when dealing with journalists: Is there anyone here who would like to see something work?

Dole: We take that to mean all of you (do).

Q: (Inaudible question about the Golan Heights).

Dole: Well, I know for a fact that our ambassador just recently delivered the American position. It's not a new position, it's one we've held for a long time on the Golan Heights. Reference was made to the Golan Heights indirectly by President Assad talking about occupied territory. We knew precisely what he had in mind, but did we discuss how we would resolve it? The answer is no. That's going to be up to people to negotiate. But our position is, the American position, is that Israel does not have right to extend jurisdiction and law into the Golan Heights. It will be a matter for negotiation. We didn't get into those details. I think I would re-underscore what Sen. Metzenbaum just stated. We had a very good visit. This president has a great sense of humour, which all of you may already know. We didn't know that. We had a few laughs. We had a lot of serious discussion. We think it was beneficial. We hope it was helpful all the way around.

Q: (Inaudible about Gen. Aoun and Lebanon).

Dole: Well, President Assad made it very clear that he supports the duly elected government of President Hrawi in Lebanon. We asked the question. There were some reports in the United States that Syria might be helping Gen. Aoun. He said that was not true, that he supports the Taif accords, which mean precisely what they state. My view is that we have the Taif accords because of the cooperation of the United States and Syria. I think we're hopefully moving in the right direction. I pointed out to President Assad that we have many Lebanese Americans and many Lebanese all over the world who see this war-ravaged nation and are pleading for a solution. It's a very complicated matter obviously, but I think again, based on what he said today, they want to play a

constructive role, they're willing to play a constructive role. That's precisely we left it.

McClure: I just might respond to a couple of the question about details. Yes indeed we had a little specific discussion about Gen. Aoun's participation in Lebanon, but primarily what we were talking about was a process rather than the individual elements of a settlement, because there will certainly be no settlement of those individual issues unless a process can be made to work. We're very much in favour of the process that have been set up in the Taif accords, and that's the position of our government. We're trying to explore what we can do to assist to see that negotiations do open, that the parties involved in conflict talk to each other, and try to find an end to the conflict. But I have no illusions that we will ever do that if we focus only on the ends that is achieved without looking first at the process by which people can sit down and talk to each other about their problems.

Q: Inaudible.

Simpson: I think we will be discussing that in Congress, without question. I think the important thing here is that, as Sen. Metzenbaum said so clearly, there are certain windows of opportunity that open at various times in history for remarkable people to fill them. And we really do think this president — Assad — could be the person to really be the central figure in finally finding peace in the Middle East. We placed that upon him in a very honest, sincere way, and it was excellent. I came away with great admiration for the man and for the foreign minister.

Dole: We'll meet with President Mubarak tomorrow, then King Hussein on Wednesday, and if there's a new government in Israel, we'll meet with the new prime minister. If not, we'll meet with Shamir and Peres. We probably will in any event.

Q: How can Syria help with the hostages?

A: Syria has contacts with Hizbollah and other groups we think are holding the hostages. I think with their relationship with Tehran, they're in a strong position, and they've been helpful. And we thanked him for it, and he indicated in a general way that they were engaged at this moment. What precisely he's doing he did not indicate. My view is that, again, in this case they occupy the key role. We certainly are grateful for that, as I'm sure everyone is around the world. We wish him success, and the quicker the better.

### U.S. diplomat

(Continued from page 1)

was unjustified," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

An Iraqi spokesman in Baghdad linked the expulsion of the Iraqi diplomat to what he called "feverish campaigns to harm Iraq" in the West, but Fitzwater said the official was ordered out of the United States because of "personal legal matters."

The U.S. Commerce Department said Monday it had canceled an aerospace trade mission to Iraq as U.S. lawmakers prepare sanctions legislation against the Baghdad government.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Iraq's decision to expel the U.S. diplomat was "totally inappropriate."

Elizabeth Dugan, a Commerce Department spokeswoman, said the Iraqi leg of the aerospace trade mission was called off "in light of the events of the last couple of weeks."

"We thought it was inappropriate to take a group of U.S. companies to Iraq at this time," she said.

Nine U.S. aerospace companies signed up to travel to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iraq next month to "help U.S. companies enhance their market position overseas and gain market exposure," the department had said.

"Iraq has ambitious plans for upgrading its civil aviation system, including new airports, air traffic control and related equipment," the statement said.

Asked whether Washington was considering economic retaliation or other sanctions against Baghdad for hinting it might use chemical weapons against Israel, allegedly smuggling devices and exporting a Western journalist, White House spokesman Fitzwater said no.

"The U.S.-Iraqi relationship is not being reassessed in that kind of context," he said.

He said the United States was "greatly concerned" about a number of Iraqi actions and noted that President George Bush had spoken out on some of them.

## U.S. Senate delegation — the track record

FIVE U.S. senators arrive today for a one-day visit as part of a tour that took them already to Syria and Egypt. The five senators leave tomorrow for Iraq. The following information, provided by the National Association of Arab Americans, sheds light on the senators' stands and voting record on a number of Middle East policy issues. Senator Allen Simpson's voting record was not available at time of publication:

**Bob Dole (Republican, Kansas)**

- Voted against the majority and against S. 1798, a bill to provide for the imposition of the death penalty for the terrorist murder of U.S. nationals abroad. (Oct. 26, 1989).
- Voted with the majority to reject the Helms amendment to the State Department authorisation bill that would have prevented Bush administration officials from negotiating with any representative of the PLO unless the president certified to Congress that the representative had not been involved in activities that resulted in harm to an American citizen. Also voted for an administration-backed compromise on the same issue — which passed — introduced by Senator George Mitchell. (Both votes on July 20, 1989).
- Voted with the majority to approve an amendment to the State Department authorisation bill declaring that the 1976 U.N. General Assembly Resolution 3379 maintaining that Zionism was a form of racism makes the U.N. or any of its constituent bodies an inappropriate forum for the sponsorship of any international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. (July 20, 1989).
- Co-sponsored a letter to Secretary of State James Baker supporting the four-point peace plan of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and urging the Bush administration to "strongly and publicly endorse" the initiative. (Letter dated June 8, 1989).
- Co-sponsored the PLO Commitments Compliance bill (S. 763), a bill that would require the president to issue periodic reports on the extent of compliance by the PLO with its "commitments" regarding a "cessation of terrorism" and the recognition of Israel's right to exist. (Bill introduced on April 11, 1989).
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz praising Shultz for denying PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat a visa to the United States so that he could visit the United Nations. (Letter dated Nov. 29, 1988).
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz requesting that Shultz deny a visa to the United States for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. (Letter dated Sept. 26, 1988).
- Co-sponsored S. 1203, a bill to close PLO offices in the United States. The bill became law after being attached as an amendment to the Foreign Relations Authorisation Act for fiscal year 1988. (Bill introduced on May 14, 1987).

**Charles Grassley (Republican, Iowa)**

- Co-signed a letter to President Bush urging him to "reaffirm the support of the United States for upholding our foreign assistance commitments to Israel and Egypt." The letter also stated that it was "vital" that the United States act vigorously to "reinforce the democratic trends in the nations of Eastern Europe." (Letter dated Jan. 30, 1990).
- Voted with majority to pass S. 1798.
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State Baker indicating opposition to the United States "taking steps that could be seen as generally rewarding the PLO at this time." The letter expressed opposition to granting a visa to the United States to Arafat. (Letter dated Sept. 21, 1989).
- Voted against the majority and for the Helms amendment.
- Voted to approve an amendment to the State Department authorisation bill declaring that U.N. Resolution 3379 maintaining that Zionism was a form of racism makes the U.N. or any of its constituent bodies an inappropriate forum for the sponsorship of any international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. (July 20, 1989).

appropriate forum for the sponsorship of any international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict (July 20, 1989).

- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State James Baker supporting the Shamir plan.
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State Baker commending him for his "opposition to a Palestinian state" and warning that any successful move by the U.N. or its related agencies to recognise the "State of Palestine" would force the signatories to consider withholding U.S. financial participation of those agencies. (Letter dated April 13, 1989).
- Co-sponsored the PLO Commitments Compliance bill (S. 763).
- Co-signed a letter by 14 Republican senators to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens welcoming him to the United States and affirming the view that Israel must ultimately base its decisions on peace "on its own security needs and its own sovereignty." (Letter dated April 14, 1989).
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State Shultz praising Shultz for denying Arafat a visa.
- Co-signed a letter to Shultz requesting that Shultz deny a visa to Arafat. (Letter dated September 26, 1988).
- Co-signed a letter to Shultz complaining of a meeting between Shultz and two Palestinian-born American citizens who were members of the Palestine Council. The letter asserted there was "no distinction between the PLO and the PNC." (Letter dated March 31, 1988).

**James McClure (Republican, Idaho)**

- Voted with majority to pass S. 1798.
- Voted with the majority to reject the Helms amendment.
- Voted to approve the amendment to the State Department authorisation bill on U.N. Resolution 3379.
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State Baker supporting the Shamir plan.
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State Shultz praising Shultz for denying a visa to Arafat. (Letter dated September 26, 1988).
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz requesting that Shultz deny a visa to Arafat. (Letter dated September 26, 1988).
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- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State Shultz, urging that the Reagan administration not consider new arms sales to Saudi Arabia until ballistic missiles purchased from China were withdrawn from Saudi Arabia. (Letter dated March 31, 1988).
- Co-signed a letter to President Reagan expressing opposition to a possible arms sale to Saudi Arabia. (Letter dated Sept. 25, 1987).
- Sponsored a resolution (S.J. Res. 153) to prohibit the enhancement or upgrading of Maverick missiles for Saudi Arabia. (Resolution introduced June 3, 1987).
- Co-sponsored S. 1203, a bill to close PLO offices in the United States.

**Howard Metzenbaum (Democrat, Ohio)**

- Co-signed a letter to President Bush urging him to "reaffirm the support of the United States for upholding our foreign assistance commitments to Israel and Egypt."
- Voted against the majority and against S. 1798.
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State Baker indicating opposition to the United States "taking steps that could be seen as generally rewarding the PLO at this time."
- Voted with the majority to reject the Helms amendment.
- Voted to approve the amendment to the State Department authorisation bill on Resolution 3379.
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State Baker supporting the Shamir plan.
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**Frank Murkowski (Republican, Alaska)**

- Voted with majority to pass S. 1798.
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State James Baker indicating opposition to the United States "taking steps that could be seen as generally rewarding the PLO at this time."
- Voted against the majority for the Helms Amendment.
- Voted to approve an amendment to the State Department authorisation bill on U.N. Resolution 3379.
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State Baker supporting the Shamir plan.
- Co-signed a letter to Secretary of State Shultz praising Shultz for denying Arafat a visa.
- Co-sponsored S. 1203, a bill to close PLO offices in the United States.

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# Arabs to launch \$500m fund to ease economic imbalances

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab Nations meet this week to launch a new fund they hope will stimulate trade between each other and help reduce growing regional economic imbalances.

Finance ministers of the 21-nation Arab League and chiefs of five main Arab funds meet in the United Arab Emirates on March 14 and 15 at the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

One of their main tasks will be to approve a \$500 million fund to help halt a worrying slide in inter-Arab commerce, AMF officials said Monday.

Minimal levels of inter-Arab trade have severely restricted economic growth, and discouraged regional investment in manufacturing and agriculture, Arab economists say.

This has led to increasing over-reliance of food imports, especially to the poorer Arab countries who cannot afford them, and to rising capital and consumer goods imports from the industrialised world because there are no Arab alternatives.

AMF economist Faris Bingardi estimates that inter-Arab trade is no more than eight per

cent of total Arab trade. During the past year, the Arab World has itself solidified further into three main trade blocs. Each has potential strengths but also has major economic weaknesses which could be exacerbated unless they cooperate much more, economists said.

The AMF, which is a kind of Arab International Monetary Fund (IMF), is realistic. "Our financing scheme will not remove all obstacles blocking the flow of trade amongst Arab countries," said AMF Chairman Osama Jaffar Al Faqih to reporters ahead of the meeting.

Faqih said that high Arab customs tariffs, bureaucratic red tape, blocks on free capital flows, storage, transport, and communications problems all added to the problem.

The new fund still needs \$50 million in contributions from central and commercial banks, and development funds to reach the \$500 million target.

It will give preferential financing to locally-produced inter-Arab exports, excluding oil and gas, and the AMF forecasts it will fund up to \$1 billion per year in extra trade by making Arab

goods competitive in price. Inter-trade between the GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar is particularly low at less than five per cent, largely due to their huge oil exports, and the fact their wealth buys them the best of overseas goods.

The other two blocs are the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), grouping Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and North Yemen, and the Maghreb Union of Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Morocco and Libya.

Figures derived from international agencies such as the IMF show just how imbalanced these groupings are. The population of the whole Arab World is around 200 million.

A comparison of population, gross domestic product and total external debt shows:

	Population (Millions)	Nominal GDP (Billion dollars)	Total Debt (Billion dollars)
GCC	18	128	4
ACC	79.5	138	113
Maghreb	60.0	112	55

The most obvious problem is how to transfer more investment capital from the wealthy side of the Arab World, which basically means the GCC, to the developing, indebted side.

Both officials and economists are pressing for freer regional capital markets. "There is now an accepted need to improve the arrangements for Arab capital markets," Arab Banking Corp said in its latest review of the Arab World.

In this sense, the new fund is seen as merely a stopgap measure but some economists also want existing pan-Arab funds to be more active in coordinating development and shift their strategy from one of safety and security.

## Japan leads 'unfair players'

GENEVA (R) — Japan won the dubious honour of being the world's most "unfair player" in international markets, according to an independent survey published Tuesday.

South Korea and the United States, a vocal champion of free trade, came a distant second and third respectively, the poll of 1,800 business leaders in 34 countries showed.

The survey was undertaken by the International Institute for Management Development, a Lausanne-based business school, and the World Economic Forum,

which runs an annual meeting of businessmen in the Swiss Alpine resort of Davos.

Japan was perceived by 52.19 per cent of those polled as the most unfair player, followed by South Korea (8.86 per cent) and the United States (eight per cent).

The only European country to fall into the unfair player category was France (4.86 per cent) which ranked fifth and received almost as many votes as Taiwan (6.57 per cent), which came fourth.

Brazil, with a reputation for

aggressive export policy, placed sixth with four per cent, and was the last of the countries the survey listed under that category.

Japan, despite being identified as the number one unfair player, was not completely vilified by the survey.

In ranking the three countries which were deemed the best at turning innovations into competitive products, those polled accorded Japan a huge 73.99 per cent and first place.

The United States was second with 10.33 per cent and West

Germany third with 2.66 per cent.

South Korea and Thailand were seen as the brightest rising stars of international business, polling 34.21 and 10.02 per cent respectively.

According to the survey, the United States, Switzerland, West Germany, Britain, Japan and France in that order were seen as resting on their laurels and being complacent with past accomplishments. "All are seen to be relaxing at a time when competitiveness is becoming more intense," it said.

According to Thomas Shilen, accounting/auditing sector direc-

## Oteiba sees \$18-20 oil price as ideal

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba said Tuesday that an oil price of \$18 to \$20 per barrel was ideal and he wanted this level to be kept until the end of 1991.

Oteiba also said that if OPEC's ministerial monitoring commit-

tee, which meets in Vienna next Friday, was to discuss members' quotas, and "if the market allows," the UAE would ask for what he termed a fair quota of over two million barrels per day (b/d).

The UAE's OPEC quota for the first quarter of 1990 is 1.095

million b/d.

The minister made his comments in an opening address to a British-sponsored oil industry seminar and in remarks to reporters after the meeting.

"(Oil) prices are fluctuating between \$18 to \$20, that is the ideal level which I myself like to see and (would like) maintained for the rest of this year and maybe the next year," he told the seminar organised by more than 30 British firms involved in the oil industry.

"The \$18 level which OPEC has fixed as a guiding price has been achieved and I want to say that we must be very careful when we talk about going beyond \$18," Oteiba said.

He added this would give the market change to consolidate and prices might be allowed to rise "to a very reasonable level" after 1991.

He told the seminar the UAE was now producing around two million b/d but could produce at a higher rate.

"But we are morally committed to that level on certain conditions, that other OPEC countries should respect their production quotas, otherwise we will feel free to produce at a rate which we feel will serve the interests of our people," he noted.

Asked by reporters whether OPEC's Vienna meeting should discuss quotas, Oteiba said: "We are flexible and everything depends on the market. If the market is strong then the quota issue should be discussed provided prices remain at \$18 (per barrel). If the quota issue is discussed at the (Vienna) meeting, then the UAE will demand a fair quota."

Asked if such a quota would be more than two million b/d, Oteiba said: "Yes, if the market allows."

If the OPEC meeting did not discuss quotas, the UAE would wait "until this door is open", he said.

The UAE does not recognise its current 1.095 million b/d OPEC quota.

## Economist highlights Jordanian improvements to attract investments

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A few years ago, before the economic crisis, nobody held discussions to try to understand the value of the dinar. It is only now, when Jordan is in a critical condition that people are realising the importance of a new awareness.

Dr. Ali Magableh at the Department of Banking and Finance of the Faculty of Economics in Yarmouk University, aired this point in an evening of lectures and discussions on means of improving the business environment in Jordan.

Among the topics discussed were the present economic situation and how to improve Jordan's prospects, highlighting "the economic dimensions of foreign exchange rate fluctuations in Jordan," the title of a lecture by Magableh.

He stressed the need for Jordanians to diversify the menu of foreign currency method of payments. "Therefore, one would not rely on the dollar for foreign transactions; additionally the risk of fluctuations will be less," Magableh noted.

Magableh also said that Jordan now has incentives for people to remit their money because of the dinar's situation, the floating of interest rates and Jordan's political stability.

According to Magableh, foreign investment in Jordan is becoming more attractive. An example he cited was that of cement: Before the devaluation, one bag of cement which cost JD 2 was equivalent to \$6. If the same price is kept, the bag is now worth \$3. "This is one way to attract investors," Magableh said.

The Private Services Development Project (PSDP), in cooperation with the Jordanian Association of Certified Public Accountants, sponsored the evening event held at the Marriott Hotel.

According to Thomas Shilen, accounting/auditing sector direc-

tor at PSDP, "we try to improve the services sector by discussing issues with businessmen, bankers and the government."

Although Shilen has only been in Jordan for three months, he can already detect a longing for improvement throughout the community. "I believe that educational discussions such as tonight's are important and beneficial because they create awareness."

The evening concluded with remarks by Samih Darwazah, chairman of the Jordan Trade Association and general manager of Al Hikma Pharmaceuticals. Darwazah's talk was informal but his message lay clear behind his words: Belief in oneself, will and team work will ultimately prove the winner irrespective of other factors.

He stressed the crucial role that exports would play in Jordan's economic future. Darwazah emphasised that it was not a question of vast resources or plenty of cash that ultimately determines business success. Rather, it was the will to succeed and the ability to make the best of the limited means available within the economy in general and to the businessmen in particular.

Darwazah pointed to the role of exports in allowing Jordan to return to its previous standard of living and then to move on to become an affluent country. He cited experiences of several other states which are now major exporters, noting that some of them, although very different from Jordan, possessed little in the way of physical wealth (eg. Switzerland) and even were in a state of ruin as a result of war (eg. Japan). Today, such countries are among the richest in the world and enjoy a powerful export sector.

Darwazah concluded by noting that despite many differences and irrespective of our problems, a change in attitude and most importantly, the adoption of a team spirit on the business and national levels would allow our country to move forward in the 1990's.

## M.E. food imports grow at 13% a year

TUNIS (R) — Food imports into the Middle East have been growing at 13 per cent a year and could cost Arab states nearly \$90 billion by the year 2000, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Monday.

In a report to a conference on regional cooperation in agricultural development, the agency described the food gap as serious and worrisome, particularly in cereals.

FAO Director General Edouard Saouma told the conference in Tunis that food production was consistently falling behind population growth in the Middle East, which for FAO purposes extends from Mauritania to Pakistan and Sudan to Turkey.

Arab states had performed worst in production and their

food import bill had grown from an average of \$3.3 billion a year in the first half of the 1970s to \$16 billion in the middle of the 1980s, the report said.

Saouma said that, with the end of the cold war in Europe and better prospects for disarmament, it could be hoped that the major powers would divert more money to development aid.

"We must ensure that the new opportunities to help the countries of Eastern Europe do not have the effect of reducing aid to developing countries. Authoritative voices have already strongly reaffirmed the priority of cooperative action in favour of the Third World," he added.

He said constant vigilance was needed in North Africa to stop the spread of the screwworm fly.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 14, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You will be busy this morning getting your own affairs in order and would be wise not to try to force anything this afternoon with the moon square Mars. Don't criticise others.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Improving your property now can enhance the value of your assets. Try to be off on some jaunt today for more happiness with your attachment.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Now you can put your most talented creative ideas into daily activities. You now can wind up some secret plan you and your family want to express.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Give a practically-minded acquaintance compliments for some good deed that person has done. Showing quiet affection for mate will bring much romantic happiness.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Don't let distractions from a person at a distance take you from your daily duties. A day to invite active acquaintances into your home.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Put off going into an important issue with a younger friend until you have all the facts. This is a day to use the utmost tact in dealing with a member of your family.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Information from a distance gives the answer to your business

concerns. An outside prominent associate can relieve some problem at your dwelling.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Be off to new places with as many alert and wide-awake friends as are possible. Think of ways to lop off unnecessary expenses in your home.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A good day to return to recreation of a social nature you and friends have enjoyed. You and your family now can reduce your ideas to a practical success.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Your own plan of action needs more preparation, study before being implemented at home. Show your affection for your mate now by some very practical gifts.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) A brilliant friend has all sorts of good ideas to aid you with business and finances. Invite into your home only the persons you really like.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Steer clear of persons who want to become your friends who have an axe to grind. Use that vitality you now feel to please your mate.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Lots of clever ideas occur in talks at home that can aid your outside activities. Home is now full of constructive activity and improvements.

## THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart

ACROSS

- Appeal
- Outmoded abbr.
- Occasion
- Replete
- Tiff
- Bucolic
- Gr. mountain
- Laender's love
- Unreversible
- old style
- Julie Andrews movie
- Set of tools
- Alcoholic
- Olympics winner
- Barbershop needs
- Bustle
- Power
- Pelvic bones
- Fin
- Govt. org.
- Rod
- Article
- Spouted
- veal
- Neckline shape
- In itself
- Hands over
- Drivers' org.
- Postal dept.
- Vivien Leigh movie
- Love in Latin
- Milan money
- Indian
- Netlike cap
- Landed
- Solitary
- Wrestling wins
- Bribe
- Break

DOWN

- Cabal
- Fertile
- Cheerless
- Juneau's state
- Accessible
- Minnesinger's kin
- Band over
- Ballet attire
- Rainbow
- Bamako's land
- Energy source
- ably
- Invalid
- Cuban dance
- Cargo ship
- Rage
- Criminal society
- Improves copy
- Gentle people
- Withered
- Tire part
- Acne sign
- Martini item
- Kitchen item
- "Land alive!"
- Stare
- Big bird
- Set of steps
- Bangkok native
- Out of style
- Sounded like a crow
- Vanna sells them
- Book of maps
- Catching of the breath
- Atlanta complex
- Midway
- God of love
- Hawaiian part
- Voyage
- Golf club
- Actress Foch
- Profound

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

Across: 1. Appeal, 2. Outmoded, 3. Occasion, 4. Replete, 5. Tiff, 6. Bucolic, 7. Gr. mountain, 8. Laender's love, 9. Unreversible, 10. old style, 11. Julie Andrews movie, 12. Set of tools, 13. Alcoholic, 14. Olympics winner, 15. Barbershop needs, 16. Bustle, 17. Power, 18. Pelvic bones, 19. Fin, 20. Govt. org., 21. Rod, 22. Article, 23. Spouted, 24. veal, 25. Neckline shape, 26. In itself, 27. Hands over, 28. Drivers' org., 29. Postal dept., 30. Vivien Leigh movie, 31. Love in Latin, 32. Milan money, 33. Indian, 34. Netlike cap, 35. Landed, 36. Solitary, 37. Wrestling wins, 38. Bribe, 39. Break.

Down: 1. Cabal, 2. Fertile, 3. Cheerless, 4. Juneau's state, 5. Accessible, 6. Minnesinger's kin, 7. Band over, 8. Ballet attire, 9. Rainbow, 10. Bamako's land, 11. Energy source, 12. ably, 13. Invalid, 14. Cuban dance, 15. Cargo ship, 16. Rage, 17. Criminal society, 18. Improves copy, 19. Gentle people, 20. Withered, 21. Tire part, 22. Acne sign, 23. Martini item, 24. Kitchen item, 25. "Land alive!", 26. Stare, 27. Big bird, 28. Set of steps, 29. Bangkok native, 30. Out of style, 31. Sounded like a crow, 32. Vanna sells them, 33. Book of maps, 34. Catching of the breath, 35. Atlanta complex, 36. Midway, 37. God of love, 38. Hawaiian part, 39. Voyage, 40. Golf club, 41. Actress Foch, 42. Profound.

## THE BETTER HALF By Harris

CHIPS

"Stop doing that! Those points are sharp!"

HARRIS 2-14

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — A round of selling by overseas investors and local institutions pushed Australia's sharemarket to a weaker close. The All Ordinaries Index fell 10.4 pts to 1,560.6.

TOKYO — Stocks dropped sharply to close more than 700 points down, largely due to arbitrageurs heavily unwinding cash index futures positions. The Nikkei Index fell 747.66 pts to 32,620.57.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended slightly softer but turnover strengthened ahead of the release of 1989 HK bank results. The Hang Seng Index fell 5.36 to 2,887.62.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed sharply lower across the board in this trade in sympathy with a 2.2 pct plunge in the Nikkei Index. The Straits Times Index fell 16.38 to 1,565.68.

BOMBAY — Share prices rallied sharply in anticipation of tax concessions for industry in the April budget to be announced on March 19, brokers said. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index rose 14.14 to 688.08. Tata steel was up 4.50 at 112.50.

FRANKFURT — Optimism about East German elections and investment opportunities boosted the Dax Index 21.4 points to 1,867.48.

ZURICH — Trade centred on industrial shares. The All-Share SPI Index lost 1.9 points to 1,101.3.

LONDON (13) — An early rise on Wall Street sent the FTSE Index up 1.7 to 2,224.5.

NEW YORK (13) — Blue chips showed early gains but declined led gainers and the rally stalled. At 1717 GMT the Dow Jones Industrials were down 0.45 at 2,686.49.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### S. Arabia, Egypt sign major accord

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia and Egypt Tuesday signed a broad agreement for economic, investment, trade and technical cooperation. The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the agreement was signed in Riyadh by Saudi Finance and National Economic Minister Mohammad Ali Abal Khalil and Egypt's Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Youssri Mustapha. A joint Saudi-Egyptian committee began a three-day meeting in Riyadh Monday to expand bilateral ties. Abal Khalil said Saudi Arabia would provide Egypt with three loans totalling 365 million riyals (\$97 million) to help Cairo finance separate development projects, including a scheme to make the Sinai desert bloom. SPA said the agreement covered the free transfer of capital, investment guarantees and the exchange of agriculture, animal and other national products and transport facilities. There were no further details. Cairo and Riyadh are planning to build an eight-kilometre causeway across the narrow entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba to the Sinai Peninsula.

### Iran Air starts flights to Malaysia

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Air opened its first scheduled link to Kuala Lumpur Tuesday and predicted the route would become its busiest, Tehran radio reported. It said a Boeing 747 left Tehran for the Malaysian capital to inaugurate the twice-weekly non-stop service. "In view of Iran's expanding relations with Singapore,

Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, we think this will become Iran Air's busiest route," the radio quoted Iran Air Director Hassan Shafii as saying. Shafii said Iran Air would add Muscat, Seoul and Toronto to its international network during the next Iranian year beginning March 21, said the radio, monitored in Nicosia. The airline flies to 15 other overseas destinations in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

### UAE ranks third for U.S. goods

ABU DHABI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) last year became the third largest market for U.S. goods among Arab countries, following Saudi Arabia and Egypt, U.S. Ambassador Edward Walker said Monday. U.S. exports to UAE in 1989 were \$1.2 billion, he told a press conference. Compared to 1988, when UAE was the fifth largest Arab market for U.S. goods, UAE imports from the U.S. in 1989 increased by 75 per cent, the ambassador said. "The performance was even more remarkable when considering that exports to the UAE had hit their lowest only in 1986, when they were just \$493 million," he said. The American envoy attributed the increase in exports to factors such as the UAE constant peg of its national currency the dirham, to the dollar. "At the same time U.S. manufacturers and suppliers discovered that the UAE is stable, dynamic, sophisticated and forward looking country which offers attractive opportunities not only for straight export sales but also for investment and joint-ventures," he said.

هناك من لا يرى



## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Gulf Arab soccer cup to continue

ABU DHABI (R) — The Gulf soccer cup will continue despite surprise withdrawals this year by Saudi Arabia and Iraq, the head of Kuwait's soccer federation said. "I am certain the tournament will continue. Regrettably, the Saudi and Iraqi withdrawals were for absurd reasons," Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah told Abu Dhabi television Monday. Riyadh and Baghdad have said they will organize an international soccer championship but they did not say if this will be instead of the biennial Gulf Arab Cup. Saudi Arabia boycotted the cup last month because it objected to Kuwait's choice of a mascot while Iraq withdrew after complaining about refereeing. The mascot depicted two stallions which Kuwaiti warriors rode to battle against Saudi forces 70 years ago. "We chose the mascot because we were proud of it. Arab history does not link the stallions to any one part of our region," said Sheikh Fahd. He said he still did not understand the reason for Riyadh's action, especially as Kuwait had agreed to drop the mascot. Kuwait won the march tournament. The other teams were Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, and World Cup qualifiers United Arab Emirates.

## Mantlingly agrees to \$19m contract

NEW YORK (R) — New York Yankees first baseman Don Mattingly became the highest paid player in baseball history Monday when he agreed to a five-year contract extension worth an estimated \$19 million. Mattingly had told Yankees owner George Steinbrenner that he would become a free agent if he did not have a new contract by Tuesday when the Yankees were due to open their season. His agent Jim Krivacs negotiated throughout the weekend with Steinbrenner to work out the new deal for Mattingly who was in the final year of a three-year, 6.7 million contract. The new package will pay Mattingly an average of \$3.8 million annually, more than San Francisco's Will Clark who signed a four-year, \$15 million contract during the off-season. Mattingly has a .323 lifetime batting average with 164 home runs and 717 runs batted in.

## Organisers cancel boxing fight

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Italian organisers Tuesday announced that the long-postponed world boxing Organisation (WBO) heavyweight title fight between Italian titleholder Francesco Damiani and South African challenger Pierre Coetzee has been canceled. The fight, originally scheduled for Puerto Rico in December, was recently set for the Italian spa of Salice Terme, near Milan on April 21. A spokeswoman for the organisation said the cancellation was due to Coetzee's last minute withdrawal. A new challenger to Damiani's crown was not immediately named. Umberto Branchini, manager of the unbeaten Italian boxer, said Damiani may shoot at the European title held by Frenchman Jean Chanet if a defence of the WBO title is not arranged soon. Damiani won the title by knocking out South African Johnny Du Plooy in Messina last year. Chanet was scheduled to defend his European title against Derek Williams of Britain after a rich bout against former world champion George Foreman failed to materialise.

## Thai retains junior flyweight title

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thailand's Muangchai Kitikakem retained his International Boxing Federation junior flyweight title Tuesday in a decision over Indonesian challenger Abdi Pohan. In a 12-round contest at Bangkok's Lumpini stadium, Muangchai never capitalised on his early dominance and on a third-round knockdown of the 9th ranked challenger. By round nine the champion appeared to be saving himself for other more serious challenges. Although the wiry Indonesian never looked fully in control, a complacent Muangchai allowed himself to be put on the defensive in the final two rounds. It was the 22-year-old Pohan's first defeat in 20 fights. Muangchai, also 22, last defended his title six months ago, when he stopped his South Korean challenger in the third round. All three judges, from Australia, Indonesia and Thailand, awarded the fight to the champion. They scored the bout 117-106, 116-115 and 118-112.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
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## WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ 6 ♠ AQJ106 ♣ Q652 ♣ K85  
West North East South  
Pass Pass 1 ♣ ?  
What action do you take?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ 6 ♠ AQJ106 ♣ Q652 ♣ K85  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
Pass Pass 1 ♣ ?  
1 ♣ Pass Pass ?  
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ AK762 ♠ J1062 ♣ 4 ♣ Q98  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond.  
What action do you take?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 109 ♠ 43 ♣ AJ874 ♣ AQ54  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♣ 1 ♣ 2 ♣ 2 ♣  
Pass ?  
What action do you take?  
Look for answers on Monday.
- For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

## Safari Rally starts today

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — More than five dozen cars will be raced for about one minute Wednesday in a brief, easy tuneup for one of the world's toughest motor events, the Marlboro Safari Rally.

The specially prepared cars will be racing against the clock on a 2.1-kilometre (1.3-mile) oval track on the outskirts of Kenya's capital.

Each vehicle will make but one lap to meet a requirement of the International Autosports Federation, the Paris-based ruling body of auto rallying.

The real challenge comes Thursday, when the 68 starters set out from Nairobi on a 4,000-kilometre (2,480-mile) endurance test of man and machine.

Fewer than half are expected to finish the five-day ordeal that will take them over nearly impassable quagmires, razor sharp rocks, flooded streams and slippery hairpin curves on high mountain slopes.

Mike Doughty, the Safari Rally's general manager, opted to run Wednesday's so-called "super special stage" on the oval track to avoid the closure of a section of the route, which is run on public roads that range from merely bad to atrocious.

With less than 48 hours to go, the full route was still in question.

Doughty set the course some months ago, but already has had to alter it because of heavy rainstorms that have made some sections impassable. Further last-minute changes are likely.

Traditionally, the rally runs through the Easter holidays, the wettest time of the year. The rains have been exceptionally heavy this year and wethermen Tuesday predicted continued downpour throughout the rally.

"I expect the drivers to have a horrible time and they will actually have to battle hard," Doughty said.

Beside rugged roads, drivers may have to contend with stone-throwers and herds of livestock and wild animals blocking bush tracks.

The event is billed as "the world's greatest rally" and is fourth in the world championship circuit. It counts for both the manufacturer's title and the driver's championship.

The 38th version is divided into six sectors, which are split into sections.

Competitors are required to cover each section within predetermined periods. Penalty points

are awarded for every minute a driver is late at a control point.

The winner is the driver with the least penalty points.

Contestants range from world class drivers racing factory prepared models to private entries, mainly by local enthusiasts.

The contest, however, is normally between factory entries.

Among them this year are the Italian-made Lancia Delta Integrale, the reigning world and Safari Rally champion Massimo Biasion of Italy, chasing a third victory in a row for himself and Lancia.

Other contenders for the top position are Japanese makes Subaru Legacy and Toyota Celica GT4, both four-wheel drive saloons making their debut.

Japanese makers Mazda and Nissan have not entered teams this year. Nissan, however, is backing its cars entered privately.

Other makes in the rally are Opel Kadette GSI, Audi Quattro, Volkswagen Golf GTI, Daihatsu Charade, Suzuki Swift GTI, and Mitsubishi Galant.

The rally began in 1953 in the former British colony of Kenya as the coronation Safari in honor of Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

their reliance on Mazunov and his brother Andrei proved their downfall.

Older brother Andrei, the singles runner-up in Paris two years ago, seemed tired and lost to both the 34-year-old Douglas and Carl Preen while the Soviets' third man Samuel Vardanyan did not have the experience to help his team.

West Germany, giving 16-year-old Torben Wosik his international debut, cruised to their second 5-0 win so far, beating Poland, while Sweden, resting world champion Jan-Ove Waldner, beat Hungary by the same score in their final round robin match to win Group B.

Yugoslavia just made the semi-finals, despite being beaten 5-4 by Czechoslovakia in Group B.

Salzburg, Austria (R) — Sevilla's Tony Polster, scorer of 28 goals in the Spanish League this season, will captain Austria for the first time Wednesday in a World Cup warm-up soccer match against Hungary in Salzburg.

Polster, one of the heroes of Austria's surprise 3-2 win against fellow World Cup finalists Spain two weeks ago, will take over the role of midfielder Manfred Zsak who is undergoing a course of painkilling injections for a heel injury.

Gerhard Rodax, Austria's top goalscorer, will again link up with Polster in an attacking lineup that coach Josef Hickersberger hopes

will slice through the Hungarian defence for another morale boosting win ahead of the June finals.

To ensure his team does not repeat the appalling mistakes of the first half of the match against Spain in Malaga, when the hosts went 2-0 ahead, Hickersberger made his squad sit for three hours studying a videotape of that half Sunday.

"We made so many tactical mistakes then which should never have happened to a World Cup finalist," Hickersberger said.

## Vacancy For House Maid

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## New decade of baseball begins

NEW YORK (AP) — Each decade produces its share of moments and stars, and they always seem to be there. The last decade brought Mike Schmidt's 500th home run, Nolan Ryan's 5,000th strikeout and 50 consecutive steals by Vince Coleman — all moments to be remembered.

A new era began Monday with opening day — the start of baseball in the 1990s. If the end of the 1980s is any indication, this decade may be remembered for the ultimate union of power and speed.

There have already been some predictions.  
"I think it's very possible I could steal 50 bases and hit 50 home runs," Oakland right fielder Jose Canseco said.

Canseco, who had 42 homers and 40 stolen bases in 1988, is one of the strongest hitters in baseball history and provided one of those frozen moments in time in last year's American League playoffs.

In world series championship game no. 4 at Toronto, he launched a home run into the third deck of the skydome about 500 feet (150 metres) away.

In the 1950s and '60s Mickey Mantle found new terrain with his power and Canseco seems on the threshold of doing some incredible things himself.

Bo Jackson has the same potential. Last season, Jackson hit 32 homers with 105 runs batted in and 26 stolen bases for Kansas City.

His home run punch keeps getting stronger.

Cincinnati centre fielder Eric Davis and Texas right fielder Ruben Sierra also seem likely to

dominate the decade with their power and speed.

"Ruben is only 24 and players usually don't reach their prime until 28 or 29," Texas general manager Tom Grieve said. "He's just going to get better."

Last season, Sierra hit 29 homers with 119 runs. He also led the American League in triples with 14.

Houston's Eric Anthony, Texas' Juan Gonzalez and Milwaukee's Greg Vaughn are the stars on the rise in the outfield.

Sometime before the decade is very old, Rickey Henderson will probably surpass Lou Brock's all-time stolen base record.

"Rickey is the best leadoff man in baseball," Oakland manager Tony La Russa said. "I'm not sure we'll ever see one like him again."

If he keeps going, Baltimore shortstop Cal Ripken might cause a lot of excitement sometime in the mid 1990s.

Ripken enters the decade having played in 1,250 consecutive games but has a way to go before threatening Gehrig's mark of 2,130.

"There isn't a shortstop around who does as many things as well as Cal," Baltimore manager Frank Robinson said.

St. Louis shortstop Ozzie Smith won the gold glove in each year of the 1980s and will probably add a few to his collection in the early '90s.

Of the upcoming shortstops, Smith likes what he sees in Shawon Dunston of the Chicago Cubs.

"He gained a lot of confidence in his ability last year," Smith

said. "He certainly has the best arm I've seen."

The '90s should help solidify Boston third baseman Wade Boggs' place among the greatest hitters ever and a spot in the hall of fame.

Boggs enters the decade with a .352 lifetime average and seven consecutive seasons with 200 or more hits. Last year, he missed only 59 balls in 1,101 swings and has given an entire new meaning to the term "contact hitter."

New York Mets third baseman Howard Johnson has already reached the 30-30 club twice and has emerged as a team leader.

"I'm 29 now and have reached the point where I know others have confidence in me," Johnson said. "I don't have to worry about proving anything."

The next 10 years, should bring some wonderful battles for supremacy at first base between Will Clark and Mark Grace.

It started in the National League playoffs last October when Clark and Grace staged their own personal one-on-one hitting contest.

In his first three full season with San Francisco, Clark averaged 29 homers and 104 RBIs. Last year, he hit .333 with 23 homers and 111 RBIs.

"I concentrated on hitting for average last season," Clark said. "I wasn't concerned about homers. Now, I've gotten stronger through weight training, and I'd like to keep the average up there and add a few more homers."

There's plenty of talent at first base in the American League, too.

## Chang advances to third round

TOKYO (AP) — Michael Chang overcame a blustery windy Tuesday to beat fellow American Kelly Jones 1-6, 6-0, 6-1 in the second round of men's singles in the Japan Open tennis tournament.

Chang, the 1989 French Open champion, said the winds bothered him in the first set but "in the second set I started hitting the ball late, allowing me more room and time to hit the ball."

He said the injury to his hip which he sustained in early December had totally cleared up.

Jones, ranked 113th in the world, got off to a good start, winning the first game of the first set without losing a point.

In the second set, Chang, no. 9 in the world, broke the second game and again broke the fourth at love. Chang then broke the sixth game.

Chang said Jones began making more errors in the second set. In the third set, Jones led the first game 3-0 but Chang fired an ace, his third of the day, and then took the game.

After leading the set 5-1, Chang led 40-0 for the match point but hit a volley wide. After a deuce the wrapped up the game at Tokyo's Ariake coliseum in 82 minutes.

The Chang-Jones match was the day's only second-round match. Top-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, meets Japan's Shuhei Matsuda, and second-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden plays American Leif Shiras in second-round matches Wednesday.

In men's singles first-round matches Tuesday, American Paul Chamberlin needed a first-set tie-break before downing Gilad Bloom of Israel 7-6 (15-13), 7-5.

Anders Jarryd of Sweden beat American Dan Cassidy 6-0, 6-3.

In women's first-round matches, top-seeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden beat Jo Durie of Britain 6-4, 6-4, but second-seeded Anne Minter of Australia and third-seeded Lori McNeil of the United States both lost their

matches.

Minter was beaten by American Louise Allen 6-4, 6-4 and McNeil lost to American compatriot Ann Henricksson 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 7-5.

Fifth-seeded Belinda Cordwell of New Zealand beat Australian Louise Field 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

Japan's Kimiko Date crushed American Jo-Anne Faull 6-0, 6-0.

The men's singles winner will receive \$137,500 and the women's singles winner \$27,000.

Meanwhile, a new challenge awaits Steffi Graf, and she can hardly wait to face it.

Sidelined two months with a broken right thumb, Graf begins her comeback Wednesday against Petra Langrova in the second round of the Bausch and Lomb championships.

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## 9 more die in S. African violence

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Agencies) — Nine blacks were killed, including seven in one attack, as violence again erupted throughout troubled Natal province, police reported Tuesday.

Some 400 people have died in recent weeks in black faction fighting, most of it centered in the southeastern province of Natal. Police said assailants near Pietermaritzburg placed a barricade in front of a taxi van carrying 19 people, then opened fire. Seven people were killed and three injured, said police, who gave no motive for the attack.

Elsewhere in Natal, police said a youth died when officers opened fire with shotguns to disperse a mob. In a separate incident, a person was burnt to death when a car was set alight.

Police reported numerous clashes in which they used birdshot, rubber bullets, tear gas and attack dogs to break up stone-throwing crowds in Natal and other parts of the country.

The main combatants in Natal are supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement and Inkatha, a relatively conservative Zulu organisation.

Both groups oppose apartheid but differ on how to approach the white-led government to change the system. Since 1986, the fight-

ing has claimed some 4,000 lives.

In another development, police said they did not expect any attacks on whites Tuesday despite the release of a pamphlet that called on blacks to "kill all the white racists" on April 10.

The pamphlet, which circulated in black townships last week, was issued under the name of the African National Congress. But ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela said his organisation had nothing to do with the pamphlet and did not know who was responsible.

"The South Africa police have no information regarding such planned attacks," police said. Similar pamphlets and rumours have appeared in recent years, but have not resulted in any outbreaks of violence, police said.

"I wish to give an assurance that the police have no information regarding such planned attacks. The police do not lightly disregard such rumours," an ANC spokesman said.

"All information was followed up and the police are convinced

that no such attacks have been or are being planned," he added.

South Africa's pro-apartheid Conservative Party has accused the government of keeping quiet over an alleged ANC plot to kill far-right leaders and their families.

Conservative chief Andries Treurnicht said in a statement late Monday that trustworthy sources had revealed the ANC strategy. He accused President F.W. de Klerk's National Party government of knowing about the plot.

"The government must then explain why it did not warn the leaders and personnel of the Conservative Party that an assassination attempt on them was being planned," he said.

A government spokesman said it had no details of any ANC plot and that if the Conservatives had any information, they should hand it to the police.

Meanwhile a right-wing South African municipality demolished 62 black squatter shacks Tuesday in a dawn raid which a human rights lawyer called a reprisal against apartheid reforms.

Police armed with rifles surrounded the Bloekombos squatter settlement in Kraaifontein, a Conservative white area about 30 kilometres outside Cape Town. They held scores of angry black

residents back from the shacks while municipal workers searched through the flimsy structures of wood, plastic and tin and piled personal belongings outside.

The people were given a few minutes to collect their things before two yellow bulldozers flattened their homes.

Human rights lawyer Barry Adams said after watching the demolitions he believed the right-wing Kraaifontein council acted against the squatters to demonstrate its anger at political reforms introduced by de Klerk.

"It's a Conservative council and I think we are seeing a kind of response to all F.W.'s initiatives over the past few months, to everything the Conservatives don't like about what he is doing," Adams said.

Kraaifontein Mayor Arthur Collier said the shacks were flattened because the government had refused to provide land for the squatters.

"We haven't got a solution for this problem. The time has come for the government to find land for these people... the government is going to have to deal with it," Collier said.

He said the town had no immediate plans for the empty land alongside a municipal workshop. "But we might need it later on."

## 50 reported killed in China unrest

PEKING (R) — Two negotiators sent to calm Islamic unrest in China's remote north-west were killed in subsequent riots, security forces killed about 50 people, Western travellers said Tuesday, quoting local people.

But Xinjiang region officials, contacted by telephone from Peking, repeatedly declined comment on Western media reports that troops had crushed a riot near the ancient silk road city of Kashgar last week.

In the most detailed version so far of the events, Swedish tourists Jan Arell and Karin Teghammar said in Peking that, according to unconfirmed accounts, trouble flared in a town some 50 kilometres from Kashgar.

The trouble began after the local ethnic Kirgiz community had been prevented from building new mosques.

Two Chinese negotiators sent to the town, near Kashgar's airport, were killed after talks hit a deadlock.

Riots then erupted and troops suppressed them, killing about 50 people, the Swedish couple said, quoting well-informed local sources who could not be identified.

The couple said that at the time of the reported unrest they themselves were in the regional capital of Urumqi some 1,000 kilometres away and could not confirm the

accounts independently. They did not know the name of the town.

A Western diplomat in Peking said he had heard similar reports from different sources.

A Xinjiang spokesman in Urumqi told Reuters that telephone interviews were forbidden and that it was not possible to visit the region for the time being.

A Communist Party official in Kashgar told a West German reporter that the unrest had been "suppressed" by Friday. He gave no details.

The Swedish tourists quoted airport and bus station officials in Urumqi as saying Sunday that foreigners were forbidden to go to Kashgar.

"There were police standing behind the women selling bus tickets," said Arell. "As soon as we asked for a ticket, they told us that foreigners could not go to Kashgar any more."

About half Xinjiang's 15 million people are non-Chinese minorities sharing the Muslim faith with inhabitants of the Soviet Union's restive Asian republics, Tadjikistan and Kirgizia, located across a long and sensitive border.

On the Chinese side of the frontier only about 120,000 people belong to the Kirgiz community, which is of Turkic origin. Kashgar has a blood-stained history of racial and religious discon-

tent.

Official Xinjiang newspapers have recently published several warnings against "hostile foreign forces" bent on splitting China. Governor Tunur Dawamat said last month he would "smash" saboteurs whom he called the "scum of the nation."

A detailed plan for limiting the number of mosques and Islamic schools in the region was published in the March 11 edition of the Xinjiang daily.

It emphasised the supremacy of China's Communist Party over religion and ordered a halt to activities by those who "require non-believers to practice religion." It said "illegal" Islamic schools had been set up.

"Some people do not engage in normal religious activities, but undermine national solidarity and spread separatist ideas under the cover of religion," Xinjiang Radio said on March 10.

"This is absolutely not permissible," it said.

Local government officials confirmed for the first time in 1988 that an organised uprising against Chinese rule took place in the early 1980s in Payzawat, 100 kilometres from Kashgar.

Muslim peasants raided a military armoury and attacked Han Chinese with stolen weapons.

## Nepal opposition invited to take part in interim government

KATHMANDU (AP) — A top opposition leader said Tuesday that King Birendra has invited his party to participate in a proposed interim government following the establishment of multiparty democracy.

The Nepali Congress Party's acting president, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, said the party has also been invited to take part in a Constitution Reforms Commission and an inquiry into last week's government crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators, the bloodiest clash this century in Nepal.

Witnesses said at least 200 people were killed when police opened fire on a crowd of about 200,000 marching to the royal palace in central Kathmandu. The government said 10 people were killed and 107 injured in police action nationwide that day.

In the wake of the shootings, Birendra yielded to opposition demands to lift a 29-year-old ban on political parties and promised to allow multiparty political sys-

tem. "Today I talked to a minister about the king's proposals, but I told him we need time before making a decision. After all, we have been out of politics for three decades and need time to reorganise ourselves," Bhattarai said in a telephone interview. He refused to identify the minister.

The Nepali Congress had formed Nepal's only government under a Western-style democracy before it was dismissed by Birendra's father, King Mahendra, in December 1960 on ground of corruption and mismanagement.

Power has since then been wielded by the king, who rules through a largely rubber stamp government and a partyless National Assembly, the Rashtriya Panchayat, that is dominated by his nominees.

Prime Minister Lokendra Chand told reporters Monday his government could be considered an interim government until general elections were held after the Constitution Reforms Com-

mission submits its report. The commission has not yet been formed. Chand gave no dates for either elections or the commission.

Bhattarai said Chand's claim on the interim government was "his view. We don't subscribe to it." Bhattarai also said the king did not elaborate on the new interim government.

On Tuesday, life returned to normal in Kathmandu and its two suburbs of Patan and Bhaktapur after day-long celebrations Monday over the opposition victory.

Shops opened and streets were thronged with tourists and residents. Shopkeepers removed shattered glass from windows were broken during Friday's demonstration.

Birendra, 44, is the heir of the Shaha Dynasty that has held the throne since the middle of 18th century. Many Nepalis, especially illiterate farmers who comprise the bulk of this country's 17 million people, view him as the reincarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu.

## Kashmiri militants kill hostage

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Muslim secessionist militants shot and killed one of three hostages they have been holding for the past four days and dumped his body outside the city's main fire station, police said.

The body of L.M. Khara, an industrialist, was found with five bullet wounds, said Tazaji Ganju, a police superintendent. Khara is the first civilian killed by the militants who has not been accused of being a police informer. His death raised to 256 the number of people killed in the Kashmir Valley since Jan. 20 when the government cracked down on a Muslim movement for secession from Hindu-majority India.

The body was found about one and-a-half hours before the kidnappers' 3 p.m. (0930 GMT) deadline. They had threatened to kill all three hostages if three jailed militants were not freed.

Ganju said he did not know why Khara, a Hindu and general manager of the Hindustan Machine Tools Co., was killed before the deadline.

## Anglo-Irish row erupts after IRA blast

DUBLIN (R) — Britain and Ireland argued bitterly Tuesday about the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and extradition after four British soldiers died in an IRA landmine attack.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher linked the killings to a string of recent extradition cases in Dublin's supreme court, angering Irish Premier Charles Haughey.

"You take the murders of these four people alongside those decisions in the supreme court of the republic not to extradite those accused of violent crime and one is very, very depressed," Thatcher said.

"It is in the interests of every-

one to fight terrorism as hard as they can and I hope they (the Irish government) would give us every facility."

The court freed two Irish Republican jailbreakers last month, arguing they could be mistreated in a Northern Ireland prison, and Friday released another prominent Republican wanted in the North on arms charges, claiming the offence could be viewed as political.

Haughey sharply denied any linkage. "I couldn't accept that there was any such relationship. Unfortunately, the violence in Northern Ireland is both random and unpredictable and I don't think anybody seriously believes that the people who conduct this campaign of violence and engage

in those atrocities would have regard for the decisions of any court."

"Every effort must be made to bring those responsible for this latest atrocity to justice," he said. The extradition row and the IRA attack have further weakened shaky Anglo-Irish relations and ensured that feelings will be running high in Belfast Wednesday among Northern Ireland's one million Protestants when Haughey makes his first visit there in almost 30 years.

As Ireland is the current president of the European Community, the Institute of Directors invited Haughey to speak to its conference on cross-border economic co-operation.

## U.S. signals harder line on El Salvador

WASHINGTON (AP) — The administration of President George Bush is signalling its intentions for a harder line toward El Salvador's government, as well as the leftist guerrillas who have waged a decade-long civil war.

The new policy is coming about through discussions with Congress, where El Salvador remains a leading sore point in U.S. foreign policy.

A first round of contacts came last week between Secretary of State James Baker and congress-

sional leaders including both Republicans and Democrats. Baker aides said the visits on Capitol Hill were intended to indicate a willingness to rethink the U.S. policy of unfettered support for the Salvadoran government.

On one side, the issue is being propelled by mounting concern among congressional liberals over human rights lapses in the Central American country, in particular the murders last year of six Roman Catholic priests.

From the administration's

standpoint, a bipartisan agreement on U.S. policy would blunt a thorny domestic political issue and enhance chances for success at United Nations-sponsored talks in Geneva between the Salvadoran government and the leftist rebels. The civil war has cost an estimated 70,000 lives.

Success in those talks is particularly important to Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. Aides said he has a deep personal desire to promote peace.

## Angolan rebels make concessions as peace process gathers pace

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — As moves gather pace to restart the Angolan peace process, Jonas Savimbi's U.S.-backed UNITA rebels are tempting Angola's Marxist government with some concessions.

The rebels are offering an immediate ceasefire and a conditional recognition of the Angolan state.

The concessions, announced in a statement released in Lisbon Monday and signed by Savimbi and other top-ranking rebel officials, have plenty of strings attached. But they could overcome an impasse that has thwarted peace efforts since a shaky first truce collapsed last summer.

They follow three months of

what is said to be the heaviest fighting in the war so far and stepped-up UNITA bomb attacks in the capital Luanda.

According to the statement, the rebels said they were "ready to cease hostilities immediately and without preconditions," and would recognise the Angolan state on the basis of accords signed before independence from Portugal in 1975.

There was no immediate reaction from Angolan government officials.

But while offering an immediate ceasefire in the field, the statement said UNITA was "determined to act with more aggression in Luanda" until a truce is sealed.

"If there is no peace, we'll hit

where it hurts most," the statement said.

Previously UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, conditioned talks on a government troop withdrawal from positions captured in rebel heartlands in southeast Angola. UNITA also always had refused even to mention the possibility of recognition under any circumstances.

The Alvor accords signed in January 1975 by UNITA, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) government and a third guerrilla movement, the FNLA, set Angolan independence for November that year after an interim, power-sharing government had been forced by the three parties.

Ochirbat warned the deputies. He said the party must end dictatorial control of trade union, journalists, artists, scientists and mass organisations such as the youth league. Many people in these groups already have rebelled against the party leadership.

He said the party also will cease making administrative decisions that should be handled by the government.

But Ochirbat said the party will keep its cells in the army and police force, ensuring its control of them.

The new opposition groups had demanded that the army serve the government, not the ruling party.

Ochirbat also warned against growing disorder in factories since the pro-democracy demonstrations began in December. The government announced last week that industrial production for the first quarter had fallen from last year due to absenteeism and slacking off at factories, and blamed it on the new spirit of challenging authority in all areas.

However, in an interview with the Japanese television network NHK that was published in Tuesday's party newspaper, Uen, Ochirbat said he had not lost confidence in the party.

## France to offer passports to Hong Kong people

HONG KONG (R) — France has made a firm commitment to offer up to 1,500 passports to Hong Kong employees of French companies, and other European countries will follow suit, a British government minister said Tuesday.

Francis Maude did not elaborate on the French offer, which follows international lobbying by the British government to secure foreign passports for residents of the colony before it is handed back to China in 1997.

He told a news conference Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg were finalising plans to offer passports.

"A number of other European Community (EC) countries are actively considering what they can do," Maude added.

China's bloody military sup-

pression of the student-led pro-democracy movement in Peking last June rocked confidence in Hong Kong and hastened plans by many key professionals to emigrate.

Britain hopes that if Hong Kong people are given foreign passports they will feel secure enough to stay. It has proposed giving full British passports to 50,000 key residents and their families in an effort to stem the brain drain. Officials say this means Britain could issue up to 225,000 full British passports.

"Hong Kong depends for its continued success on the key people remaining here, and if that happens then it benefits everybody, not just those who receive the passports themselves," Maude said.

He said over the past three months Britain has made repeated representation at a high level to the governments of 20 countries.

"The response to our efforts has been generally very encouraging," Maude said.

He added: "Our work is not yet done."

Maude is the British Foreign Office minister with responsibility for Hong Kong and is now visiting the colony. He heads back to London Wednesday night.

Government estimates put the current rate of emigration at 1,000 a week.

China has repeatedly attacked the British government's plans, now before parliament, to offer

full British passports to Hong Kong people and has said it would refuse to recognise the validity of the documents.

Some 3.25 million Hong Kong people already hold British passports, but have no right to live in Britain.

Maude dismissed suggestions that Peking would criticise the European initiative.

"I would be surprised if China reacts in a hostile way to this," he said.

"We've explained to China that Hong Kong is in its nature an international place," he said.

"There is big international investment, it depends for its success on this sort of international endeavour and it's perfectly proper that for other countries to take an interest in the employees of their own companies."

## Pyongyang warns Moscow against ties with Seoul

TOKYO (R) — North Korea's official news agency Tuesday carried a blunt warning to the Soviet Union not to establish official ties with its South Korean archrivals.

It issued a statement by the pro-Pyongyang South Korean National Democratic Front (Hamminjon) saying: "The Soviet Union, a friend of our people, must not go the length of becoming a friend of the enemy of our people."

It was Pyongyang's toughest reaction to last month's meeting in Moscow between President Mikhail Gorbachev and Kim Young-Sam, a co-leader of Seoul's ruling Democratic Liberal Party.

Kim returned home saying Gorbachev told him there were now no obstacles to full diplomatic relations between Moscow and Seoul. The Soviet Union, which backed the Communist North in the 1950-53 Korean War and remained a close ally, has always refused to recognise the capitalist South Korean state.

North Korea broke its silence on the visit last Friday with an editorial in the official daily Rodong Simun that furiously accused Seoul of trying to per-

petuate the 45-year division of the peninsula and expressed doubt over Soviet intentions.

"It is unthinkable on a normal orbit that the Soviet Union will involve itself in the 'two Koreas' policy by recognising South Korea in contravention of basic principle," Rodong Simun said.

Tuesday's Hamminjon statement was much less cautious. According to the text carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, the South Korean exile group expressed astonishment "at the news that such a political shyster as Kim Young-Sam ... was invited to the Soviet Union, which was the first Communist state to emerge on the globe, and met with the person in the top echelon, had talks for improvement of relations and published even a 'joint communique'."

Hamminjon continued: "It is incomprehensible to those with sound thinking ability that a dignified Socialist sovereign state should discuss the question of establishing diplomatic relations with South Korea."

"All the more unimaginable is the fact that a superpower should discuss economic cooperation

with and hold out a hand to South Korea which is tottering, utterly dependent on foreign capital, without assets of its own."

The statement said if the Moscow communique on Kim Young-Sam's visit proved true, it showed the Soviet Union was "tolerating the U.S. domination and occupation of South Korea, supporting the Roh Tae-Woo military fascist dictatorship, and cooperating in the perpetration of national division."

Hamminjon concluded: "Why does the Soviet Union, which wants to keep union republics from breaking away and hold them in a federation, intend to hamper the North and the South of Korea, one country by origin, from being reunified and to help those who want to create two states?"

"Our people do not recognise the 'joint communique,' a co-product of betrayal and treachery between the Democratic Liberal Party of South Korea and an institute of the Soviet Union, and will never tolerate the establishment of diplomatic relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union which they seek."

Since 1988, year of the Seoul Olympics, the booming South has pursued an aggressive double-pronged "northpolitik," aimed at easing tensions with the North while fostering ties with Pyongyang's traditional East Block allies.

In the past year, to North Korea's ill-concealed fury, it has established first trade and then full diplomatic relations with a number of East European countries.

The Soviet Union, which badly needs the sort of technology and capital that South Korea had to offer, has been steadily moving in the direction of closer ties. That for Seoul would be the biggest prize of all.

Last year bilateral trade more than doubled to \$399 million, the two countries have now exchanged consular offices and their flag carriers, Aeroflot and Korean Air Lines, began regular flights between their capitals at the end of March.

Moscow, while reluctant to offend its long-term ally, has shown increasing interest in the past few years in establishing links with economically dynamic South Korea.



## Alligator invades store

SPRING HILL, Florida (AP) — Shop owner Ed Shea was talking on the phone when a customer walked in, turned around the fled without a word. Shea looked over his shoulder and saw the reason the man had bolted. There was a 2.1-metre alligator in his store. "At first I thought it was plastic and that someone was just trying to scare me," said the 43-year-old proprietor of National Floor Care Products. When he realised the animal was real he called the Florida game and fresh water fish commission in this southeastern state where swamp alligators are common. The unwitting guest just sat there for 20 minutes it took for the wildlife officials to arrive. But when the trappers slipped a noose on the alligator it turned mean, flipping boxes, upending chairs and attacking a vacuum cleaner. It clenched the appliance's cord in its teeth. Mike Fagan, a wildlife official, figured the 125-pound (56-kilogramme) alligator wandered in a back door from a nearby pond in search of food. "I've only been here a year and a half, and the last thing I would have thought was that there would be an alligator sitting behind me in my shop," said Shea.

## Workaholic Japanese get close to nature through telephone

TOKYO (R) — Caught between a workaholic boss and an infernal rush-hour trip home, the harried Japanese salaryman can now commune with nature — by telephone. Telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) now brings callers the sound of birds and insects down its phone lines. NTT and the environment agency say they hope to bring the Japanese closer to nature through the new service, dubbed "Naku-Naku 7979". Naku-Naku means, roughly, "cheep-cheep." "I will introduce you to the sound of birds," coos a woman's soothing voice, describing each of the birds featured on the tape. She imitates the calls, then plays the recordings. After that she entreats the listener: "Please go out and try to find real sounds yourself."

## E. Germans demand exotic underwear

MUNICH (R) — The end of the Berlin Wall has sparked a wave of demand from East Germans for sex aids and exotic underwear, the illustrated magazine Quick reported Tuesday. They are clamouring for suspenderbelts, vibrators and other sex toys from one of West Germany's biggest mail-order marital aid firms at a rate of 500 orders a day. "The demand is there," said Uli Rothemann, head of the Beate-Ushe Company, which sent four trucks loaded with 160,000 catalogues to four East German cities in the last week of March. "There were queues of two or three hundred metres and the people ripped the catalogues out of our hands," he said.

## Dog leads police to its master

LONDON (R) — A burglar took his dog along to rob a house in an English village but inadvertently left it behind and the white-haired terrier led police to its master. Dean Mattingly, 25, fled from a neighbour's house in Hinton Waldrist, near Oxford, with a miniature television and some cash but forgot the dog, which he had tied up outside. Playing a hunch, a police officer who arrived at the scene took the terrier for a walk. After 100 yards it stopped outside a cottage and began barking. Mattingly, wearing only a T-shirt and underpants, answered the policeman's knock and said: "Great. You've found my dog." On Monday, Mattingly pleaded guilty at an Oxford court to two charges of burglary and was sentenced to 15 months in jail. Neither the dog's name nor its fate were immediately known.

## Locke seeks to get out from under Eastwood's shadow

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sandra Locke says her cop thriller impulse owes nothing to her longtime companion Clint Eastwood, but "it's a battle to get out from under Clint's shadow." The film, which Miss Locke directed, stars Theresa Russell as a tough cop on the edge of burnout, a theme not unknown in Eastwood's work. But "this is not like any movie he ever did," Miss Locke said in a recent interview.

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